

The FORUM

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Gazette

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PLUS MANY MORE WITH OUR REGULAR FEATURES

By Amrik Singh

The Prime Minister's announcement of certain new measures regarding Punjab is not a reversal of the policies followed so far. It is only a re-adjustment to the changing situation.

What were the factors at work? One was the situation on the ground. While terrorists had been discredited, terrorism had not died. On the contrary, it took a heavier and heavier toll of life. As Barnala put it quite some months ago, as soon as it became dark they took over though, during the day, it was the police which ruled the roost.

How could this dual system of governance go on? In any case the police were charged with the duty of putting an end to what the terrorists were doing. They did have some success but, no less serious than that, in the course of what they did, they did so much damage to public morale. Their oppression became unbearable and, before long, those affected began to protest openly.

More or less without notice, a few weeks ago, newspapers began to publish details of what the police were doing. These were so gruesome and harrowing that it prompted the press to probe deeper. As they did so, what they uncovered stank right up to the high heavens.

Readjustment, Not Reversal

So much so that even the Governor who would normally not concern himself with these matters was obliged to pay personal visits and hear people at first hand. Some people, though not everybody, had the courage to protest

openly. What they did not realise was that while they could talk openly in the presence of the Governor he would not be there to protect them against the ill-treatment of the police. The inevitable happened. Those who complained

were hauled on the coals.

At the centre of this drama was the SSP at Batala. They would not take any action against him because, it was said, it would demoralise the police. What they

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Package Deal Short Of Expectations

Lt. Gen. J.S. Aurora, President Sikh Forum, issued the following press statement on 4 March, 1989:

"We have studied the Prime Minister's political initiative for Punjab with great interest. It would be wrong to call it a political package because there is nothing of much substance in it.

"The release of Jodhpur detenus in instalments has lost its significance. The end result is that the detenus innocent, who were kept locked up for more than four years, and unless something is done to rehabilitate them, they will continue to nurse resentment against their illegal incarceration. About

the Delhi killings in November 1984 the Prime Minister after all has accepted that the punishment of the guilty is necessary. The actions so far belie its sincerity and determination, specially of the wrong doers in high places.

"We have always maintained that the People of Punjab have never supported terrorism or terrorists. On the other hand, the overwhelming authority to the Police has lead to suppression which, continues to alienate people from the administration. The announcement that the provisions of the National Security Act would be withdrawn and use of

other restrictive laws would be modified is a welcome step.

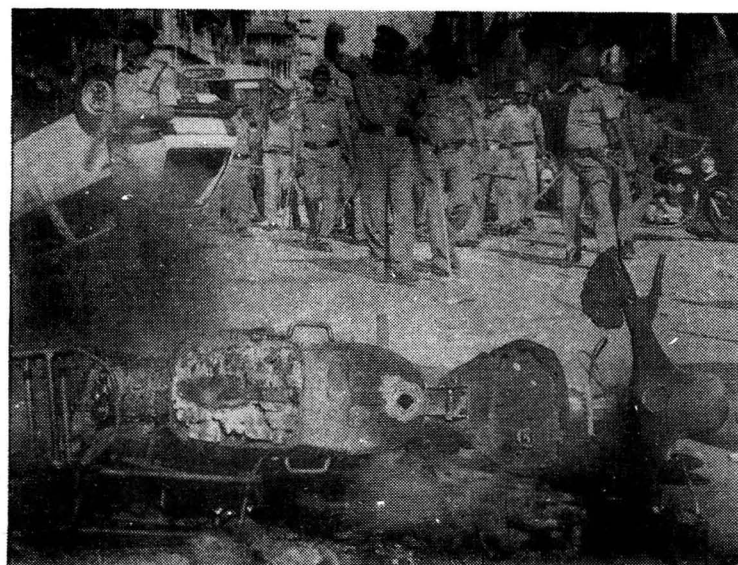
"These few ameliorative measures fall short of the public expectations and will not create the desired favourable impact. Much more is required to be done. Release of all leaders including Simaranjit Singh Mann now followed by a general amnesty before the Panchayat and other elections are held is strongly urged. Coercion and humiliation of innocent people by the police must stop and necessary disciplinary action should be taken against those who are guilty of such excesses."

Bombay Riots

Police Miscalculates To Provoke Demonstrators

By Baiju

Three bad things happened in the last fortnight. Against the much advanced civilization of human beings, the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran called for the 'execution' of one of the prominent writers of the world, the author of the book *The Satanic Verses*. The second and totally unwarranted development was the observation of a nation-wide bandh by the so-called Muslim fundamentalists. But the third was the worst. A miscalculation by the police. And the miscalculation led the police to arrest almost all the leaders of the

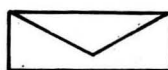


organisations which called for the bandh in Bombay. The slip up left about 3000 strong crowd leaderless on the streets of the city. They turned up at Mastan Talav after the well-attended Friday afternoon prayers on 25 February, many of them without even knowing the imposition of Section 144 in the area overnight.

The local Imams called for a march to protest against the protection given to Salman Rushdie by the British government and they wanted to submit a memorandum to the British High Commissioner. No other programmes, it seemed, had been in their agenda. But the police misreckoned the whole

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LETTERS



The Nightmares

I read your cover story 'Batala, The Worst' by K.S. Khosla (THE FORUM GAZETTE, 1-14 March 1989). The people of Punjab are in real trouble. During day light the police are the curse. During the dark hours terrorists are on the rampage. What I am concerned is why the authorities do not take effective steps to protect the lives of the citizens.

The current situation is conducive for both the police and the terrorists. They both make money. They do enjoy life in all other aspects, too.

To the common man both the police and the terrorists are nightmares. They think both come to intimidate them, both humiliate them, both take away money from them and both are even equal in molesting girls and torturing and even killing the ones who stand on their way.

So far people were of the opinion that the problem in Punjab was the creation of religious fundamentalism and terrorism. But now it is clear that both fundamentalism and terrorism have nothing to do with the crisis in Punjab. The real problem in Punjab is the absence of good and real police personnel.

I sincerely believe that the situation in Punjab can still be normalised. What we need is just one thing, 'the determination on the part of the authorities to solve the problem'. A sincere wish to see Punjab calm and quiet. But, unfortunately, that is what we lack. One thing is quite sure. If the situation goes on like this, the mood of the people will also change. This has happened in so many occasions in the history of our land. Let us not this happen again.

Leny

K.E. College
Kottayam
Kerala

Movement Against Oppression

I was deeply shocked to read the pathetic condition of the ropemakers in Saharanpur. The author, Ms Dipti Priya, deserves appreciation for the investigative and analytical narration of the different movements taking place in the Saharanpur district.

Workers are considered worse than slaves in some parts of our country. Whenever they raise their voice, they are countered with barbaric treatments. But the landlords and industrialists should understand the fact that oppression and torture have a boomeranging effect.

Things may change fast. The Saharanpur workers' movement must grow into a much popular movement. Your timely publication of this article ('The Ropemakers' Movement In Saharanpur', THE FORUM GAZETTE, 1-14 March 1989) will boost the morale of the oppressed and it will serve as a warning to the culprits.

Rita Chouhan

New Delhi

Thanking You

I am using this column for thanking you all for having published a series of articles on human rights, women's movements and child abuse. It is a well-known fact that crimes against women and children are on the rise recently. I hope that the authorities would heed to these problems immediately.

Hope that you will find time to accommodate such factual articles in the future issues also.

Nirmal Kaur

New Delhi

Kehar Singh

There have been some strong voices of protest against the execution of Kehar Singh who was described as an "innocent man" by leading columnists. Their opinions cannot, in any even, be brushed aside. Yet if one scrutinises the whole judicial procedure stretched over four years there is no escape from concluding that the judiciary did not attempt, at any point of

time, to hasten or expedite the pronouncement of the verdict. Even a cursory glance at the chronology of the Indira Gandhi murder case would bear this out and confirm that the accused were granted every facility of defending themselves in accordance with the opportunities prevailing in any democratic country.

On the contrary, the very fact that the High Court's death sentence on the three accused was reversed by the Supreme Court to set free Balbir Singh is clear testimony of the comprehensive nature of the trial.

One is, of course, free to hold in a democracy one's view on the fairness or otherwise of the verdict on Kehar Singh, but to imply that the executive's desire to hang the murderers of the late Prime Minister had motivated the judiciary to order their execution is most condemnable because - (1) the President too has been sought to be assailed in the process, due to his rejection of the mercy petitions; (2) the charge has come from those who have for long years tried to uphold the judiciary as the repository of all wisdom in a bid to prop it up in their battle against the executive.

Further, it was intriguing to find that some of the persons who had called for abolition of capital punishment in the wake of the demand for saving Kehar Singh's life were raising slogans in favour of hanging the persons responsible for the death of Safdar Hashmi, the young theatre personality. One should therefore try to take a dispassionate view.

It is high time that punishment to the killers of Indira Gandhi is followed by adequate retribution to those guilty of the anti-Sikh riots and Safdar Hashmi's murder. Neither crime is exonerable since none can minimise the enormity of one or the other. And let the fire of indignation lit by Hashmi's martyrdom be harnessed towards the evolution of an environment that would readily admit the expression of dissent in every form and preclude hooliganism and mafia raj of any political colour from capturing the national stage.

B Ramachandran

Bangalore

Sound And Fury

Life is cheap in India. That, at last, was the foundation of Union Carbide's legal strategy.

- Editorial comment in the Washington Post

And those who rhetorically ask the question: Why \$ 470 million should know that the amount was arrived at by adding interest on the \$ 350 million from the date the offer was made.

- Mr George Fernandes.

Even if Mr. Rushdie repents and becomes the most pious man of time, it is incumbent on every Muslim to employ everything he's got, his life and wealth, to send him to hell.

- Ayatollah Khomeini.

I doubt very much that Khomeini or anybody else in Iran has read the book.

- Mr. Salman Rushdie.

There is something very primitive and totemic about the reaction to Salman's book, and we have both been horribly frightened.

- Mrs. Marianne Wiggins, the author's wife.

Even if Rushdie has written something against Islam, that's his opinion and he is free to say it.

- Mr. Neguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian Nobel laureate.

However offensive that book may be, incitement to murder and offer reward for its perpetration are deeply offensive to norms of civilized conduct.

- Mr. George Bush.

To hell if I lost my credibility or grace. I worry only about protecting Islam, and not myself.

- Ayatollah Khomeini, quoted by his daughter.

Living in a world of many faiths, the experience has served to remind us that we must all be conscious of the sensibilities of others

- Salman Rushdie.

An arrow is travelling towards the heart of Salman Rushdie, the blasphemous bastard

- Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

Writers everywhere have been weighed and measured by the edict from Iran

- Salman Rushdie's wife Marianne Wiggins.

Already the fear is growing. There are writers who are not willing to come out and support Salman Rushdie because they are afraid they might be targetted too

- American Writer Susan Sontag, president of PEN International.

The largest purveyors of our books do not care about literature (they) seem to have more respect for terrorists than for culture

- Norman Mailer, criticising book stores which removed *The Satanic Verses* from their shelves.

The death threat is purely matter between the Ayatollah and Mr. Rushdie

- Syed Shahabuddin.

Salman may be safe for the next week, he may be safe for the next three months, but this threat will hand over his head for the rest of his life

- Hanif Kureishi

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NEWSHOUND



By Rap



Signs Of Desperation

What has been witnessed in both Houses of Parliament as well as in the West Bengal Assembly shows signs of desperation. With an election due at the end of the year, the ruling party fears that its tenure might come to an end. No wonder this has given rise to a feeling of desperation.

There are people who argue that the next general election may not take place and the life of the Lok Sabha may be extended. While this cannot be ruled out, the chances are somewhat remote. For all practical purposes therefore, that possibility need not be taken into account.

What happens in the case of the general election then? Even if some of the opinion polls conducted recently are not taken into account, one thing is clear. Either the ruling party loses the election or it returns to power with a thin majority. In either case there would be instability as well as uncertainty.

During the last four general elections, it has been a landslide victory either for one party or another. One need not go into the causes of that phenomenon. But this much is clear that in the next general election this pattern is not likely to be repeated. Whoever wins, whether the ruling party or the opposition, it would be by a narrow margin. Therefore, instability is built into the situation.

Who can welcome instability, it need not be regarded as an unmixed evil. This is not because instability is a good thing, but because instability, is the ultimate analysis, will prove to be a prelude to stability. In plain words, we would like political stability and that is how it should be. But in certain circumstances, this ideal cannot be ensured. If that be so, let us not fear instability as some kind of a plague. Rather it should be looked upon as paving the way towards eventual stability.

The fact of the matter is that the Congress(I) is approaching its stage of final demise. It has quite a number of accomplishments to its credits. But for the last quarter century or so, its role has ceased to be positive. In a way it has become the political wing of those who exploit the country; a combination of classes appears to have captured power and everything is done in their interest. What these classes are and how they are feathering their nest all the time are details one need not go into. This much is clear, however, that the development of the country has got obstructed because of the policies that are being followed. The strategy of development followed during the last four decades cannot be sustained any longer. And hence the crisis.

What has given a somewhat longer lease of life to the ruling party than ought to have been the case is the ineptness and stupidity of the opposition. No alternative strategy of development has been seriously mooted by it. It can, therefore, happen that the ruling party may get rejected and the opposition will take advantage of it.

What happened in West Bengal shows a calculated approach to the political problem. It is pathetic because whatever else may be said about that state, it has a strong government which knows its mind and has been conducting its affairs both with dignity and responsibility. That such stupid things should have been done in that state only goes to show that there utter bankruptcy of ideas and of political strategy.

No one represents this mode of thinking more flagrantly than the Prime Minister himself. That is why he chose to blame the opposition for aiding the terrorists. The tactic rebounded on him and he had to apologize. That he did it without grace only underlines the point which John Kennedy once made. He defined courage as grace under pressure. Rajiv Gandhi did not give any evidence of it.

And this condemns him more than anything else he could have said or done. If in response to all these pressures he is going to lose his dignity, he is going to add to his problems. Dignity is important in all situations and more so in the case of someone who heads the government of the country. When he apologized, he did not carry conviction but, worse than that, is the fact that he failed to maintain his dignity.

When we have not what we like, we must like what we have.
—Anon.

Religion Is Our Bane

By Ludwina A. Joseph

The recent anti-Rushdie protest in Islamabad in which six persons died, tragically and senselessly, could so easily have happened anywhere on the subcontinent. We read about such incidents with a sense of déjà vu, so accustomed are we to an almost daily diet of "communal" (a euphemism, surely) rioting, spasmodic eruptions of destructiveness, and increasingly frenzied crimes committed in the name of religion.

I have not read *'The Satanic Verses'* and have no interest in defending Salman Rushdie but the idea of a screaming mob attacking the American Center—over a book they had never read or were ever likely to read—seems so utterly and absolutely futile and so horribly familiar.

Adherence to dogmatic formalised religion is a special cross we all have to bear. It appears to be something ingrained in our psyche. Which of us on the subcontinent—whether Christian, Hindu, Sikh or Muslim—has not been guilty at some stage in our lives of some extreme either in thought, word or deed, or of a feeling of superiority or intolerance to those of other faiths. The Bible (the Old Testament), the Qoran and the Mahabharata are all replete with passages that are at once barbaric, bigoted, and bloodthirsty, urging the believers on to acts of murder and mayhem that completely contradict the codes of conduct by which we try to live in this modern world.

In Deuteronomy, Ch.7, V.2-5, it says of those who worship other gods: "thou shalt utterly destroy them. Thou shalt make no league with them. Nor show mercy to them...destroy their altars, and break their statues, and cut down their groves and burn their graven things". And if they resist, Ch.20, V.13-17 declares: "thou shalt slay all that are therein of the male sex, with the edge of the sword. Excepting women and children...but of those cities that shall be given thee, thou shalt suffer none at all to live". (The Holy Bible, Douay-Rheims version).

And in the Qoran, S.V.36, the punishment for infidels is "execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land". Further, it says in S.XLVII, 4-8: "why ye meet the unbelievers, smite at their necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond...for those who reject (Allah), for them is destruction". (An English interpretation of the Holy Qoran by A. Yusuf Ali).

Granted that these passages are quoted out of context and actually refer to ancient battle practices, but today's religious extremists enact them as if they

were divine law.

Or consider Lord Krishna in the Mahabharata acknowledging and justifying the unfair and cowardly means used by the Pandavas, at his instigation, to defeat Duryodhana (Ch.XCIII. The Pandavas Reproached). According to the Kshatriya code of honour and laws of war it was wrong or 'adharma' for Arjuna to kill Karna when the latter was vainly trying to raise his chariot out of the mud but Krishna urged him to act for "who could bear the responsibility for breaches of dharma except the Lord himself". (Ch.XCI. The Death of Karna). or, in the same chapter, Bhimasena's paroxysm of rage on the battlefield when he broke Duhshasana's limbs and tore them out of his body: "he sucked and drank the blood from his enemy's body like a beast of prey and danced on the ensanguined field, mad with passion" in an ecstasy of wrath. His savagery was obviously condoned as he was on the side of good fighting evil. (The Mahabharata translated by C. Rajagopalachari).

Even allowing for Bombay film-dominant's cinematic licence Doordashan's serialised version of the Mahabharata, which assails us every weekend with its distasteful kitsch and its endless procession of despotic monarchs, deshahille princesses, lecherous yogis, vendettas, sorcery, tyranny and brutality, appears not to be a great deal different in its intolerance of other "dharma's" (creeds) and its provocation and incitement to violence as the previous scriptures quoted.

Why then do we condemn the fundamentalists today as ignorant and mentally degenerate when they are only practising what is held to be the word of god? If one has to attack anything then it has to be the contents of the scriptures themselves—how could exhortations so full of blood and gore and revenge have been considered revelatory or divine. How can any thinking, feeling, normal, reasoning person accept them seriously or as a model for civilised behaviour. Is it possible to have a rational discourse or to encourage a modern scientific temperament in a rigid "believer" I think not. There is a point beyond which all their so-called rationalism and intellect dissipates and they revert back to bigotry and fanaticism. Is it any different from the Shankaracharya of Puri (a supposedly erudite man) preaching the glories of Sati or the ravings of the Imam Bukhari or the recent flurry of executions of innocents by Sikh militants.

In fact there is little that is "catholic", in the sense of largeness, about any of the religions. To cultivate a liberal and tolerant outlook one has to forsake

formal religion and dogma and live according to a set of values. Of all the great faiths, the two early reformist movements that emerged from Hinduism—Buddhism and Jainism—both preaching "ahimsa" or non-violence, must be the most peace-loving of all faiths and perhaps the most attractive. They do not advocate "jehads" and crusades. Hinduism is unfortunately saddled with a reactionary (for modern times) social malaise—the caste system. But there is nothing reactionary or regressive about the Gospel or the teachings of Nanak or the lyricism of Mirabai, Kabir and the Sufi saints. Inevitably one has to be selective about what one should or should not read amongst any of the scriptures, skirting carefully the rabble-rousing inducements to kill, maim and plunder.

I recall an argument with a Muslim who had an aura of progressiveness but when questioned he reverted to type. He said that Islam complemented Christianity but in fact Islam demolishes the principal tenets of the Christian faith: the concept of the Holy Trinity, Jesus as the Son of God, Mary as the Mother of God, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

He seemed incredulous that anyone would want to believe otherwise! The two religions are actually irreconcilable, not complementary and the only way to achieve a free inquiry or a rational discourse on a religious subject is to gloss over the contradictions and try to isolate points of agreement or, best of all, not to discuss religion at all.

I wonder why it is then that one gets an emotional "high" from the mere trappings of religion: Gregorian chant in dim cathedrals with robed altar boys and a sonorous pipe organ; the lone Brahmin smearing one's forehead with red "tilak" in the nearby Hindu temple; "qawwal" singers intoning outside the Dargah Sharif in Ajmer; the mesmeric effect of the chanting in the Ranakpur Jain temples clustered together in all their marble whiteness in the Aravalli Hills; the icy dip in the picturesque lake near Hemkund Sahib in the Garhwal Himalayas, sacred to Guru Gobind Singh; the bells ringing at the Enchey Buddhist Monastery in Gangtok and the tiny boy-monks looking on solemnly. The incense, the vestments, the smell of burning oil, the ritual, the prayer-flags, the special atmosphere—they are evocative of childhood, of memories of things past and make for a special kind of nostalgia. They strike an emotional chord. I suppose there must be something dark and obscure and primeval in everyone's makeup, so who are we really to blame the fundamentalists.

No More Rhetoric, Please

By K.S. Khosla

Of late a spate of reports have appeared in the national Press about the Central government's intention to solve the Punjab problem by taking a number of steps. These moves include: broadly, the calling of a meeting of Opposition parties to discuss the problem, release of the remaining 168 detenus in Jodhpur jail, holding panchayat elections to revive the political process in the State and creating more jobs for the youth particularly in the terrorist-infested districts of Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur.

Opposition leaders in the State believe that all these moves are belated attempts to solve the problem and lack credibility. Take first, the Prime Minister's decision to appoint a Cabinet sub-committee to call an all party meeting to consider the problem. Public memory is short but it is necessary to recall that the Prime Minister announced in January 1988 on board the plane on his return journey from Stockholm that he would discuss the proposal to hold an all party meeting to discuss the problem with his Cabinet colleagues. This statement created a lot of speculation in political circles of an impending political initiative. But then there was utter silence for nine months. It was only in the middle of September 1988 when the Prime Minister visited Punjab that he revived the proposal for an all party meeting and announced that he would appoint a Cabinet sub-committee for the purpose. The sub-committee has been formed and, it is learnt, that it has held a couple of meetings but the call to the Opposition parties for a conference has not yet been given. It is also learnt that the Cab-

inet sub-committee on Punjab has drawn a set of proposals to deal with the situation and will invite leaders of various political parties soon. How soon? No one knows.

From inspired leaks in the Press, one can say with certainty that one of the proposals is to release the remaining one hundred and sixty-eight detenus arrested from the Golden Temple in June 1984 on charges of sedition and conspiracy and presently lodged in the Jodhpur jail. What one fails to understand is the hitch in releasing these detenus when over 200 detenus held on the same charges have been released already. The first batch of 40 detenus released included Mr. Jasbir Singh Rode, a nephew of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhinderanwale, who was arrested from Manila with the help of Interpol. The charge against him was that he was a separatist and that he raised pro-Khalistan slogans at Nankana Sahib in Pakistan before a gathering of Sikh pilgrims from India. Everyone knows how Mr. Rode was patronised by the state government after his release. At that time the militants ruled the roost in the Golden Temple and he was appointed the Akal Takht chief. A lot of hope was generated that he would be able to bring round the militants for talks within the Constitution and thus make them join the national mainstream. But that was not to be. The government failed to judge the mood of the Sikhs and events proved that Mr. Rode had little hold on the militant outfits. The government embarked on the much appreciated and welcomed Operation Black Thunder to flush out the terrorists from the holy shrine of the Sikhs. The operation was a great success and a vast majority of the Sikhs were

happy that at least the Golden Temple had been cleared of terrorists who had desecrated it. But the government failed to cash on this feeling of revulsion among the Sikhs by pressurising the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, which had dismissed Mr. Rode and other priests, to retain him as the Akal Takht chief. The government again lost its credibility as there was no reason for the government to support a person detained on a charge of being a Khalistani.

Then came the release of more detenus from Jodhpur jail in the middle of September last on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Punjab when he announced that panchayat elections would be held in Punjab to decentralise power and revive the political process in the State. The question is why release the Jodhpur detenus in batches and make them pawns in the political game as part of a package deal. If they are seditionists, they should be tried and convicted. Why hold them in jail for more than four years without trial. Under which law of the country is their detention in jail for such a long period justified? Now comes the news that the government may release the remaining detenus on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Punjab in the middle of March. Informed sources say that such belated attempts to assuage the feeling of the Sikhs is not going to help much because of the guilty of the November 1984 riots in Delhi, when about 3,000 Sikhs were killed in cold-blood, have not been brought to book so far.

As for panchayat elections, no one knows when these will be held. Twice a notification was issued and cancelled each time in the face of increased killings by

terrorists. It is now proposed to hold panchayat elections in districts not affected by terrorists. The reason for postponing panchayat election is the fear that terrorists may capture the panchayats by participating in the election. The Congress(I) party in the State is itself opposed to holding panchayat elections as it is not sure of winning them. For that matter, all political parties are not enthusiastic about these elections as they have become irrelevant under the present situation. Only the leftist parties, the CPI and the CPM, are opposing the terrorists politically and otherwise and they have lost quite a good number of their active workers in the process. The Akalis are the worst offenders in this respect. They are not opposing the terrorists in any way. In fact, they are helping the terrorists indirectly by their conspiracy of silence. Their passivity has not helped them at all. On the contrary, many Akali leaders have fallen to the terrorist's gun. In fact, the Akalis are deriving vicarious pleasure at the government's failure to break the back of the terrorists.

As for creating more jobs for the unemployed youth, particularly for those living in the border districts, the government's new industrial policy is certainly a step in the right direction. But one wonders whether the government will be able to induce new entrepreneurs to set up industries when it is not able to hold panchayat elections in those areas.

This brings us to the government's policy of exhausting the terrorists first and then start the political process. Observers are of the view that any initiative on the political front must begin by restoring the confidence of the people in the law and order machinery. It is

indeed ironical that while on the one hand the government wants to hold panchayat elections to revive the political process, on the other hand the police in Batala district is beating up and humiliating sarpaches and panches. About forty of them resigned in the first week of January in protest against police excesses. The Governor, Mr. S.S. Ray, listened to their grievances and appointed two senior officials to inquire into the allegations against the police. They have yet to submit their reports. But before they can submit their reports, the police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has come out with a statement in the Press that the Batala police is not guilty. It seems the top administrators in Punjab are working at cross purposes. Talking to newsmen at Ludhiana on February 20, Mr. J.F. Rebeiro, Advisor to the Governor, defended Mr. Chaman Lal, former Inspector General of Police (Border Range) who sought transfer in protest against the police chief's policy of repression on the people. "I was always in favour of Mr. Chaman Lal's stand and have never deviated from it," Mr. Rebeiro said. He disclosed that Mr. Govind Ram, S.S.P., Batala district, was transferred from Faridkot district as there were complaints against him. The allegations against him were found to be true but he was transferred as he had caught terrorists.

The crux of the problem is: Can exhausting the terrorists go well in hand with initiating a political process. It can, provided there is fair play and the police functions within the law of the land. No less a person than Mr. Rebeiro believes that the hearts and minds of people cannot be won with injustice and high-handedness which alienate the people further.

Police Miscalculation Provokes The Demonstrators

Continued from page 1

development. Thus started arresting the leaders of the organisations which proposed the protest march. When the people assembled at a particular place, there were no person to give them proper guidance and a total confusion prevailed. As it was pre-planned, the protesters wanted to march towards the British High Commission office. The police could not allow the crowd to march ahead as the prohibitory orders were in force. The police offered to allow a delegation to present a memorandum to the authorities but the processionists asked the police to allow them to walk a short distance at the end of which they said they would court arrest. When the processionists started running, there was utter confusion and the police had no alternative but to chase the demonstrators. Lathi-charged, tear-gassed and, in all,

150 rounds were fired. And it left more than a dozen demonstrators killed and more than 40 injured.

As many of the observers question, why the police did give too much importance to this particular demonstration? As against the police statement that the arson and looting were pre-planned, most of the demonstrators think that the police action was really pre-planned.

It is a fact that the protest would have made some sense if the book had not already been banned in India. But since the book has already been banned in this country, the protest had nothing to do with the entire controversy which is on in the international arena. At least in India we had no reason to go into the streets shouting slogans and destroying public property over this. The so-called leaders who

But the most discomposing aspect is the police action. After Rishikesh, Bidar and Jammu, it is now in Bombay, one of the most secular metros in the country

called for the demonstration must have realised the fact that the Ayatollah's actions were clearly

motivated to put political moderates who have been in the ascendant in Iran ever since the war with Iraq ended in the virtual defeat for Iran, on the defensive. Had our leaders realised this fact what else was their intention? Who were the protesters trying to impress? The people of Bombay? The British government? Or, were they protesting against the Shiv Sena? Or Rushdie himself? The so-called Muslim leaders never wanted to kill the Indian-born author, Salman Rushdie, until a few days back. They were over-satisfied by the banning of the book by the government in October last. Thus the real intention behind the demonstration and the protest are nothing but creation of chaos and communal discord.

But the most discomposing aspect is the police action. After Rishikesh, Bidar and Jammu, after

Ahmedabad, Meerut and Delhi, it is now in Bombay, one of the most secular metropolises in the country. Either it was the inertia on the part of the police or the partiality shown by them had been the real problem on communal riots at almost all these places.

It is meaningless to say that the police miscalculated and did not get the real gravity of the situation. They must have been prepared to meet any eventualities as they were aware of the demonstration well in advance. Police is to maintain peace and order. They should have pre-planned their strategy to meet any provocation on the part of the demonstrators. But the police failed miserably. The police should not confine itself giving flimsy excuses. The government should take necessary steps to preclude such tragedies at least in the future.

Governor Politics In Kerala

By V.K. Ravi Varma Thampuran

The Governor-government battle has spread to one more state in the country making make the will of the constitution once again. The Governor post is aimed at maintaining a bridge between the federal government and the state governments. But the bridge is about to collapse, and as a matter of fact democracy would again be the victim.



The clash between the Governor and the state government started in West Bengal a few years ago. The scene then shifted to Andhra Pradesh and now to Kerala, all the victims are non-Congress(I) ruling states.

The rift between the Marxist-led state government and the Governor, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, reached a critical situation as the state Assembly passed a resolution on February 2 condemning the Governor's actions, rather misdeeds. Though the resolution and the discussion on it in the state Assembly were only on her capacity as Chancellor of the Universities in the state, it ultimately reached her capacity as the Governor.

The resolution was for expressing dissatisfaction at the action of the Governor as the Chancellor in making nominations to the Senates of two of the universities in the State. The opposition led by Congress(I) argued against the discussion on the Chancellor describing the Governor's action should not be discussed in the Assembly. But the Speaker of the house, Mr Varkala Radhakrishnan, quoting Allahabad High Court judgement, ruled that Chancellor and Governor are two different entities since the chancellorship is conferred on the Governor as an additional power by passing a resolution in the state Assembly. Disagreeing with the Speaker's ruling the entire opposition except one independent member, Mr M.V. Raghavan, boycotted the Assembly during the discussion. Therefore, the discussion against the Governor became one-sided.

Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha came as the Governor of the state in February 1987 following Mr P. Ramachandran. When Mr. Sinha was made Governor, she was an

active politician as against the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Chief Minister, Mr E.K. Nayanar, pointed out this and expressed resentment over her appointment. Even then he arrived at the airport to receive the new Governor.

Within a few days of her assuming office came the *Bharat Bandh* called by the national opposition parties. A few unpleasant incidents occurred in the state capital on the *Bandh* day. Soon came the Governor's directive to the Chief Minister to maintain law and order and ensure protection of lives and property of the people. Though the Governor's directive cannot be blamed the way in which she expressed it had gone against precedence. Unlike the previous Governors she rushed to the Press with her directive and caught big headlines. The Chief Minister criticised her for this action, but not stood for a fight.

The confrontation was confirmed a few months later by Mrs Sinha when she refused to give her assent to the Calicut University Act Amendment Ordinance, which was mainly aimed at replacing Vice-chancellor Mr. T.K. Raveendran after the syndicate of the university decided to grant UGC scales to its teachers against the will of the state government. Then also the ruling Left Democratic Front led by the CPI(M) did not come out into an open attack and left it to the feeder organisations.

Within a few months came the nominations of four student members of the Senate of the Kerala University. The Governor dropped two from the list recommended by the Vice-Chancellor, and to disappointment, the ignored two were record holders in inter-university meets, whereas, the selected two were 'nameless' ordinaries.

This made the student organisations of CPM angry and they marched to the Raj Bhawan to submit a petition against her action. But the Governor used this opportunity to curse the state government for lack of furnitures and table mats in the Raj Bhavan.

Still the government and the LDF controlled themselves expecting 'fair dealing' in future. But the Governor again acted against the recommendations of the state government while making nominations to the Senates of Kerala and Calicut Universities. She accepted only five of the 13 names recommended for the Senate of the Kerala University and four of the 14 names recommended for the Senate of Calicut University. The other nominees were of her own choice. The ruling front alleges that the Governor's 'nominees' are Congress(I) supporters and they were nominated to win two syndicate members for the Congress(I). Eight

Senate members can elect one syndicate member. Whatever may be, this is the first incident in the history of Kerala that Chancellor is making nominations against the will of the state government.

The Governor is not the chancellor of Universities in all the states. In Andhra Pradesh Edu-

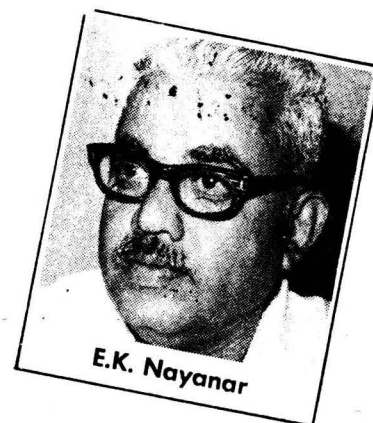
ses have also attracted criticism. The budgetary sanction for Governor's travelling allowance is Rs. 39,000 a year. All the previous Governors spent only what the budget allowed. But Mrs. Sinha spent Rs. 50,000 more and asked for an additional one lakh before the first year ends. She is so lavish in the maintenance of her office, too. All these reckless expenses are amidst the financial crisis created by the Centre.

Once during a heated argument in the Assembly, opposition leader, Mr. K.Karunakaran(Cong-I), said that he is getting secret police reports before it is even reaching the Chief Minister who is also the Home Minister. Members of the ruling parties are on the say that Mr Karunakaran is getting the police reports from the Raj Bhavan itself as a part of the plan drafted to destabilise the state government.

It is pointed that Governor Govind Narayan Singh was forced to resign by the Central Government for acting against Congress(I) Chief Minister in Bihar. But here the Congress(I) is protecting a Governor whose actions contradicts the elected state government and so against the people of the state. It further explains that the Governor is acting as a Congress(I) agent for destabilising the

state government. But to be true, the actions of the Governor is tarnishing the image of Congress(I) and the Central Government in the state. Moreover, it helps the state government to divert the attention of the people from many other serious problems.

Noted jurists including former Supreme Court judges, Rajinder Sachar, P. Subrahmaniam Potti



Mrs Sinha spent Rs. 50,000 more and asked for an additional one lakh before the first year ends. She is so lavish. All these reckless expenses are amidst the financial crisis created by the Centre

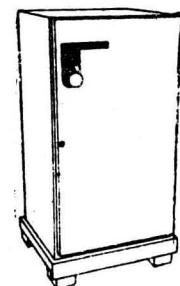
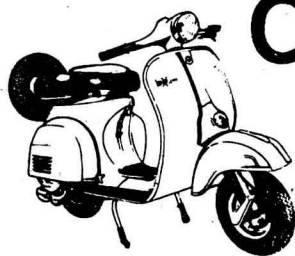
cation Minister is functioning as the Chancellor. The power of chancellor of all the universities of Kerala is conferred on the Governor by a decision taken by the state Assembly and, therefore, she is indebted to the Assembly though it is not written in any statutes.

Again, the Governors's expen-

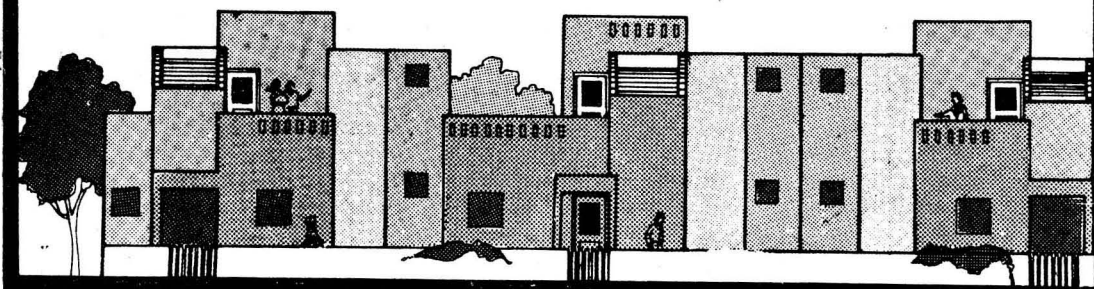
and V.R. Krishna Iyer, have deprecated the undemocratic acts of the Governor. The intelligentsia of Kerala have begun to question the necessity of the governor post itself. It is expected that the agitation against the Governor will take momentum in the coming months and the possibility of even an anti-Centre agitation also cannot be written off.

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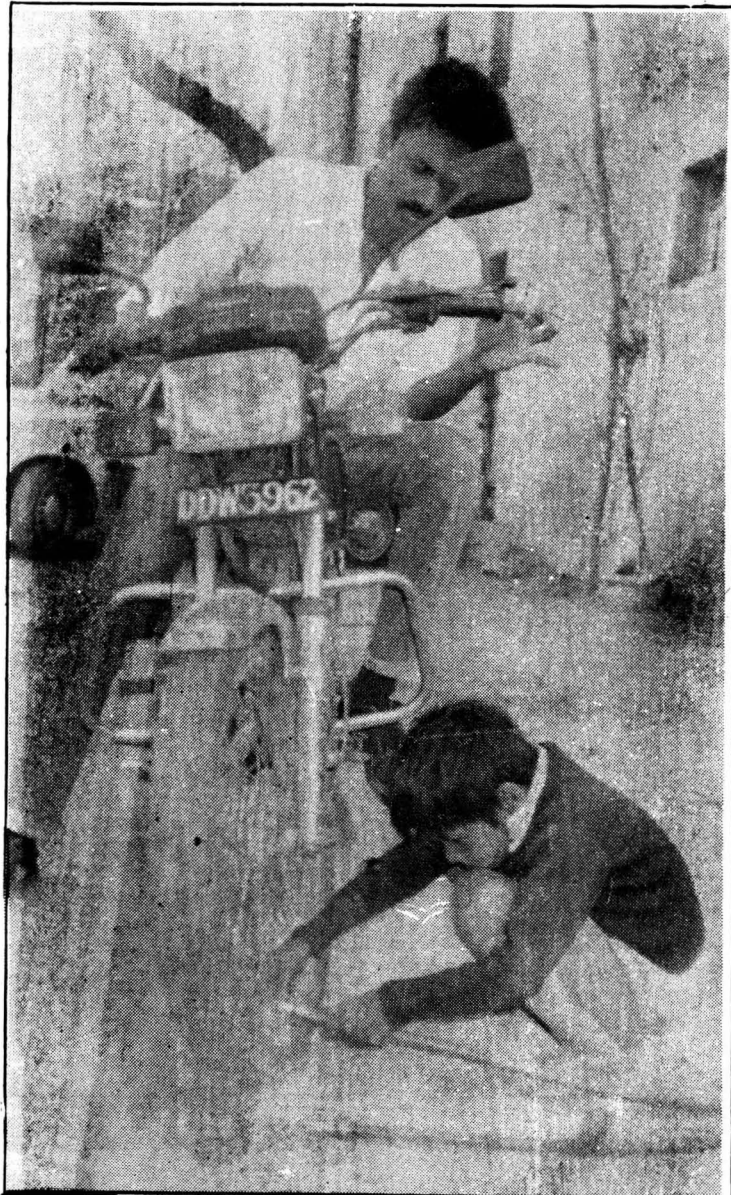


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Children Of A Lesser God

By Kavaljit Singh



God makes the downtrodden, too

Eight year old Ramesh leaves his family at 4 o'clock every morning to reach one of the match and explosive factories at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu. After handling dangerous explosives for 14 hours in the factory, he gets Rs.4. per day. 12 year old Roshan spends 12 hours a day near the furnaces with a temperature of over 500 degree centigrade at one of the many glass factories of Ferozabad, Uttar Pradesh.

10 year old Chottu can be seen working everyday (without weekly offs) at one of the restaurants in the I.N.A. market of South Delhi, earning a meagre sum of Rs.50 per month.

Another Chottu of almost same age can be seen every evening at Safdurjung Crossing, one of the busiest intersections in Delhi, selling newspapers which he himself cannot read.

Question: Who are these children—Ramesh, Roshan, and Chottus?

Answer: They are the contributors to their families income.

Question: Are they exceptionally deprived children?

Answer: No, they are not. There are nearly 44 million other children like them in our country.

Out of the 44 million child labourers, nearly 60 per cent are below the age of 10 years. Majority of them are employed in informal and unorganised sectors. Usually, these children are working in somewhat semi-organised sectors like agarbathi making factories, matches and fireworks factories, carpet weaving and powerloom industries, mines and quarries, hotels and restaurants and also employed as domestic servants.

While millions of adults in our country are unemployed, the labour of the children is being utilised because it is much easier to control and exploit child labourers than adult labourers. There is also no liability on the part of the employer to give any service benefits like provident fund, gratuity, leave, promotion, etc. furthermore, the children cannot think of making unions and fighting for their rights.

It is worthwhile to mention that various legislative measures have been enacted by the government

to regulate the age of employment, hours of work, wages, etc. Such legislations are not new but dates back to 1881 when the Britishers passed the first Factories Act to compete with the Indian industries with its cheap labour supply avail-

While millions of adults in our country are unemployed, the labour of the children is being utilised because it is much easier to control and exploit child labourers than adult labourers

able in the country. At present, there are a dozen legislations which deals with the employment of children:

1. The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.

2. The Employment of Children Act, 1938.
3. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
4. The Factories Act, 1948.
5. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951.
6. The Mines Act, 1952.
7. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
8. The Motors Transport Workers Act, 1961.
9. The Apprentices Act, 1961.
10. The Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
11. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.
12. The Shops and Establishments Acts.

However, these laws provide a protection only to a limited number of child workers as the majority of child workers are employed outside the sectors regulated by such enactments. Moreover, where ever these laws are applicable, the presence of corrupt enforcement machinery allows the employers from flouting the provisions laid down in these Acts. As a result, these laws have become nothing but damp squib.

In 1986, the Parliament also passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill. This Act does not propose any radical step to eradicate this problem but approves and legalized the child labour in many years, banning in certain occupations which were considered hazardous. The legitimization of the child labour goes against the Indian Constitution which says, "No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment" (Article, 24). The Act also acknowledges that the child labour is an economic necessity thereby meaning that the Government fully approves the economic system under which the practice of child labour is unavoidable. This also reflects that the government lacks the political will to remove poverty and exploitation, the two major contributing factors responsible for the practice of child labour.

Therefore, the Rs. 64 crore question (please don't confuse it with the Bofors issue!) is: Can the law which has recognised the child labour as unavoidable abolish it?



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Aurora For Probe Into Atrocities In Batala

By Our Correspondent

The Akali MP, Lt Gen J.S. Aurora, demanded a judicial inquiry into the case of police excesses in Batala, instead of police inquiry as has been ordered by the Punjab Governor, Mr S.S. Ray. Gen. Aurora's demand was supported by several Opposition MPs.

Making a special mention in the Rajya Sabha, Gen. Aurora gave some details on the police excesses in the district. He said the local people were rounded up, their noses rubbed on the ground, the women vilely abused and men beaten up on false charges of harassing terrorists.

He said the sarpanches from the villages, who complained to the Governor, were again beaten up by the police. He said Mr SS

Ray visited Batala on February 14 and after hearing the complaints, ordered an inquiry to be conducted by the DIG, Punjab police.

Gen. Aurora maintained that such an inquiry would be meaningless because the DIG would naturally protect the local SSP, who would in turn protect his men. Given the fact that the police officers would protect their own, it would be in the interest of justice to have a judicial inquiry instead, he said.

He also demanded that the SSP of Batala be suspended forthwith so that he would not be able to interfere with the inquiry. He also reiterated the view that state terrorism was primarily responsible for the Punjab problem.

Return To Fear, Broken Dreams

When Daleep Singh, 55, went to Karauti in Gwalior district, Madhya Pradesh, in 1969, he had visions of creating land as fertile as that of his native Punjab. Hazara Singh went to Lakhimpur district in Uttar Pradesh as late as 1982. He, too, had visions of piling gold from land that was so much cheaper than in his home state. Now both the families have returned, like so many others, exchanging land with Hindu families in the Tarn Taran division of Amritsar.

They returned to Punjab in search of security: to escape "insults and harassment" and the possibility of violence like the pogroms witnessed after Indira Gandhi's death.

But, instead, in Punjab they found they would have to live in fear, as Dalbir Singh puts it. His and the dozen-odd families in this village and Chakbamba, some 20 km away, were unanimous that if they could they would prefer to go back to the states they had adopted and left with undue haste.

"We are Indians, we do not want a situation where we would need a passport to move around," says one of them.

Joginder Singh of Chakbamba village exchanged roughly 40 acres in Nainital district, Uttar Pradesh, with 20 acres belonging to Kashmir Chand in July last year. Daljeet Singh and his five brothers exchanged their land in Fatehabad near Daulatpur in Uttar

Pradesh with Niranjana Das of the same village in June. They got 18 acres for 40.

Gurdeep Singh, now dead, exchanged his 50 acres in Kulum Jajharpur in Shahjahnpur district of Uttar Pradesh with the 23 acres of the Chambamba Sarpanch, Kishan Chand. He also paid an additional sum of Rs. 2 lakhs. Dalip Singh and his brother, Sakhattar Singh, exchanged 50-odd acres at Karauti village in Gwalior district with 22.5 acres in Thay Brahmana.

Hazara Singh and his four brothers exchanged some 38 acres at Shanharpur village in Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh with 20 acres, also in Thay Brahmana.

Balwant Singhna Dalal, based in Dhiban Kalan, handled most of these exchanges and several more in this area. Many of the exchanges were done through common family friends who acted as go-betweens.

Amarjeet Kaur's husband, Gurdeep Singh, was killed in an exchange with terrorists who had attacked the house of Kishan Chand in which they were then living in June last year. Gurdeep Singh, a former soldier, had fired at the terrorists and had been killed in the return fire.

Amarjeet says her eldest son, Virinder (18), has spent each evening since then expecting "something to happen." She has sent her

Six Ways To Rationalise Taxes

1. With a view to tidying up the Income Tax Act, exemption limits and concessions should be placed together under each of the heads of income tax, wealth tax, gift tax and capital gains tax.

2. The quantitative exemption limit should not be raised above Rs. 18,000 per head, as is being suggested by some. Rather, it should be lowered with a view to broadening the tax base. However, the maximum tax could be marginally lowered and slabs below adjusted accordingly.

3. Tax exemption on dividend across the board is not being suggested as it would strain the budget position. What could be considered, however, is that the tax exemption could be granted to companies having factories in notified backward areas or producing notified goods or utilising notified foreign capital or notified hi-tech

procedures.

4. The concept and definition of depreciation should be the same in the Income Tax Act and the Companies Act and its method of calculation could be one—the more scientific one—the more scientific one—the step down method. This would then perhaps make Section 115J of the Income Tax Act redundant. The revenue implications of this would of course need study before the proposal is accepted.

5. Since advancing through a chit fund makes the member first deposit money and then obtain a loan from the fund, it is perhaps the least inflationary among all forms of financing and is a boon to the middle and lower middle classes for obtaining articles of consumption. As a form of financing it is a gift of India to the world, yet in India it is the least encour-

aged. It is suggested that the next Budget should commence giving it the maximum encouragement, of course under adequate overseeing arrangements. The incentive should be in the form of tax concessions to both the chit fund and its members, and the commercial banks, to start with should undertake chit fund business, the only limiting factor being the availability of trained personnel. Later the regional rural banks and finance companies could also be gradually brought into the picture.

6. Similar incentive should also be provided in the next budget in the form of lower or nil stamp duty on *darshani* and *mud-dati hundies* to develop a bill market, particularly in the rural areas. This will facilitate the movement of goods, particularly agricultural commodities.

Taking Sikhism To 21st Century

The Guru Gobind Singh Foundation has decided to organise an international seminar in Delhi to focus attention on threats being faced by Sikhs and their religion all over the world, the challenges to Sikhism posed by modern civilisation, and to evolve a consensus approach to fight these challenges.

The objective of the seminar, to be attended by Sikh and non-Sikh scholars from all over the world, is to enable the Sikh community to re-adjust its responses to the present-day situation, keeping a long-term perspective in mind. It is with this background that the foundation has chosen the subject of discussion: "Sikhism and the 21st century."

Capt. Amarinder Singh, President of the Foundation, said that prior to this international conference the Foundation had already organised two regional conferences on the subject in Delhi and

Calcutta. The third regional conference would be held in Bombay in April.

In reply to a question, Captain Amarinder Singh ruled out inviting terrorist groups or the All India Sikh Students Federation to the conference to express their opinions. The conference was being held with a broad perspective to evolve a consensus strategy to modernize Sikhism.

In reply to another question he said that religion could not be separated from politics by issuing statements like those given out by the Union Home Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, or by passing legislation in Parliament. For this purpose, a consensus approach was necessary and the entire community should be made aware of the process.

For making preparations for the seminar, a National Preparatory Committee has been set up. Mr Amarinder Singh and Dr Jasbir

Singh Ahluwalia are the Chairman and Member-Secretary of the committee.

The first meeting of the National Preparatory Committee was held yesterday. The following topics for the papers to be presented at the seminar were approved:

- (i) Sikhism and Sikh society (a retrospective view—since 1699 A.D.)
- (ii) the future of Sikhism and Sikh society (ideational and technological challenges of the 21st century).
- (iii) Sikhism as a world religion (implications and imperative).
- (iv) Sikh institutions and structures (their relevance and role in the 21st century).
- (v) Interface of Sikhism with other living world religions (interreligious dialogue)
- (vi) Sikhism and modern modes of thought and the effects of the "Sikh diaspora".

two younger sons, aged 12 and nine, to the Dashmesh Academy at Anandpur and they do not come home even for holidays. "What is the point of living somewhere where you cannot even keep your children with you?" she asks.

Gurmeet Kaur, wife of Daljeet Singh of Chakbamba, says her family had never faced any problems in Uttar Pradesh. It was the riots in Delhi after Mrs Gandhi's assassination which made them feel insecure. "If it could happen in Delhi with educated people involved, then what can one expect of ignorant villagers?" asks her husband. It was this that made them decide to move and now they regret it. "Given half a chance, we would go back," says Gurmeet Kaur.

"But who will buy our land now?" asks Pooran Kaur, her sister-in-law. Both Chakbamba and Thay

Brahmana lie in the heart of terrorist country, and as far as the economic part of the exchange of land is concerned, the Sikh families got the worse of the deal. Not only is land in Punjab dearer than in Uttar Pradesh, but they also had to leave most of their agricultural equipment behind. Moreover, their income has also decreased.

The women recall the pucca two-storey houses they had in their adopted states. Here, either they cannot afford it or they do not build them out of fear that such ostentation would make certain elements think they are moneyed and prospective ransom victims. Extortion is the major activity of the terrorists in this area.

The families of Hazara Singh and Sakhattar Singh left this area as late as in the early eighties. Sakhattar Singh, who had land at Usma, and Hazara Singh, who

own plot at Dhiban, sold a part of their land and bought several areas in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh and Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. But less than six years later, they had to return.

Thay Brahmana, incidentally, is so named because till the late Seventies it was a village of some 18 Hindu brahmin families. Eight or nine of them still live here. An old Brahmin lady says she is waiting for an opportunity to move out with her family. "What is the point of staying here if our sons get killed? But we cannot really afford to move out," she adds.

"We keep on telling them: It is your village. Stay on, times will change. But, you see, we cannot guarantee their lives. Even we have little security," says Dalbir Singh.

Courtesy: Telegraph

By Bharat Dogra

Our Child: Beggar,

The recent high spurt in kidnappings in Patna and other parts of Bihar, the exposure of the racket of taking poor handicapped children for begging alms in Mecca and the documentation of the continuing supply of girls for brothels from some parts infamous for this trade have again drawn attention to the traffic in children and teenagers that exists on quite a larger scale in India, even extending beyond its borders.

In a nine month period from January 1988 to October 88, 191 minor girls and 142 minor boys have been reported missing from the city of Patna. All the missing girls are in the age-group of 6-14, and none of them had been traced till early October. However, some members of a kidnappers' gang have been arrested and they have reportedly confessed that they were engaged in kidnapping and then sending these girls to Nepal, from where the helpless girls were to be sent to other countries.

Several members of kidnapping gangs have been apprehended during this year (1988) Saharsa, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sasaram, Khagaria, Nalanda, Bhagalpur, Aurangabad and Gaya districts of Bihar. From Bairiya bus station in Muzaffarpur district half a dozen gangsters along with several children kidnapped by them have been recovered. It has been alleged that these children were to be supplied to the carpet weaving units of Mirzapur and Varanasi. A similar motive was given by three gangsters caught in Samastipur who had kidnapped 14 children. Ten children kidnapped from Neval village in Saharsa district were recovered from near Sonapur Railway Station in Saran district. Ten children kidnapped from Madhepura district have also been rescued recently in separate incidents.

According to recent reports, gangsters have gone to the extent of picking up poor and deformed children from some districts of West Bengal—Nadia, Krishnanagar, Burdwan and particularly Murshidabad—and then smuggling them to Mecca where they were forced to beg. Their earnings were then collected by these gangsters.

A recent study has said that three lakh minors are engaged in prostitution in India, ten thousand in Bombay alone. This study has identified six centres of sales of girls in India in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa.

These are only some of the more recent reports on the activities of those trading in minors the evidence of which has been accumulating over the years.

In a wide-ranging network that spreads to almost all parts of the country and has international connections, thousands of children and teenagers are kidnapped, or

lured away from their parents on false promises. A distinction has to be made between kidnapping children and luring them away from parents on false promises. In certain cases, for example some of those relating to supplying workers for carpet weaving in U.P. from Bihar, it has been found that those responsible for supplying children continues to stay in the same village with the parents of the victimised children. If this had been a case of kidnapping, this would not have been possible. So what happens in such cases is that the racketeers take full advantage of the extreme poverty of parents. They are given some money, with promises of more to follow, if they agree to send their child far away from their home, where it is promised he or she will get a good deal, such is their poverty and want that the parents allow themselves to be convinced by this clear talk.

In writing on this issue, however, two warnings need to be voiced. Firstly, our deep concern for kidnapped children should not lead us to hasty violent actions against persons arousing some suspicion on such grounds but whose guilt is not yet proved. This warning needs to be voiced because some cases of suspects whose guilt was not yet proved (invariably such suspects are poor people sometimes having some physical deformity as well) but who were lynched by angry crowd which suspected them to be kidnappers have been reported. Secondly, although this heinous trade has international ramifications, we should be careful not to implicate the genuine work of child adoption which has given a home and happiness to several orphans. Such parents deserve our praise and appreciation.

Begging Rackets

Evidence of the existence of organised gangs which kidnap children and use them for begging has trickled in from time to time without any comprehensive picture emerging.

At one time a spate of such reports had led the former P.M. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to express concern in Parliament at the growing tragedy of children used as beggars.

According to a study titled 'Begging by Children—how many of them are kidnapped' made several years back by Central Bureau of Correctional Services of the Department of Social Welfare, "it is not unsafe to say that a good proportion of these children might be victims of exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous adults who exploit them for collection money by playing upon the sentiments of passers-by exposing the children especially if they are deformed and handicapped."

Following detailed discussions on this problem at meetings of top police officers a special section was added to the Indian penal code in 1960. Also detailed instructions for police officers regarding how to implement the new provisions were drawn up by the Intelligence Bureau in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and they were circulated to all the states. The Intelligence Bureau requested all the states to send quarterly reports and statistics regarding the cases of kidnappings of children.

At the conference of Deputy Inspector General of Police, CID, in 1965, it was recommended that simultaneous drive should be organised throughout the country.

Young Runaways' a study by S. Devdas Pillai and K.M. Kapadia.

Nearly 15 years ago five-year old Murgan was kidnapped while he was on his way to school in Somnathapuram near Tiruchendur (Tamil Nadu). He was made captive by a gang of leprosy afflicted persons who used children for begging and smuggling narcotics. Some children were mutilated before being sent out for begging though Murgan was spared.

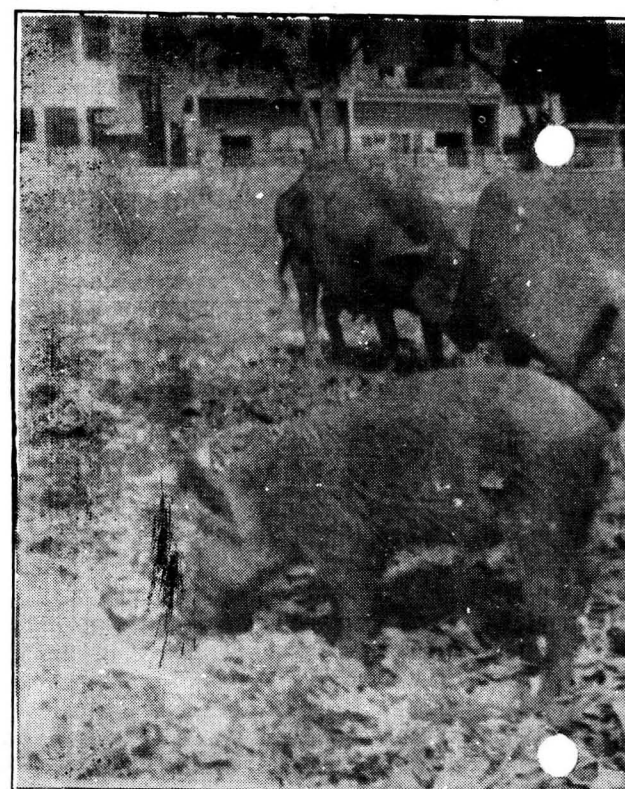
In early 1980 a 13-year old boy who worked in a tea-stall in old Delhi who accidentally came in contact with the police told the following story—he was kidnapped from his village when he was a very small kid. After confinement and beatings for some time, a corro-

beaten with hot iron rods to make him agree to begging in various places, while Sailesh was threatened that his parents would be killed if he refused to beg.

In Dakha (Bangla Desh) some years back a courageous man, Akram Hussain, chairman of the National Committee of Slum Dwellers, not only exposed the racket of kidnapped children being used for begging but even gave the address of the Dakha syndicate which operated an organised racket of a begging team of mutilated destitutes in Dakha. It is another matter that concerted efforts were not made for busting that racket.

In the same city a British doctor, Dr. Jack Preger, who has attracted

A recent study has said that three lakh minors are engaged in prostitution in India, ten thousand in Bombay alone. This study has identified six centres of sales of girls in India



from time to time in order to trap the organised gangs and rescue kidnapped children.

The Working Group on Social Defence for the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74) set up by the Planning Commission in April 1968 observed, "The problem of child beggars should be first isolated, as children who take to begging are often victims of gangs of exploiters."

About 15 years back several reports of maiming of children for begging in Bombay, specially at Haji Malang Hill, 10 miles from Kalyan had been received. A reference to this has been made in a study of child kidnappings by the Children's Aid Society, Bombay, published in 1973.

Around the same time the *Indian Express* published a report about a boy who escaped from his captors in a village in Hawrah district, West Bengal, and later told the police that he saw at least seven boys and girls kept in iron cages. Some of them were bleeding while the eyes of one had been gouged out. A reference to this news has also been made in

sive acid was thrown on his body to mutilate it and then he was taken to crowded places for begging. The day's collections were taken away by a member of the gang every evening. There were about a dozen other children between the ages of 6 and 13 years in the place where he was confined, the boy said. After some years the boy could run away from this gang and started working in a *dhaba*.

Presistent questioning of two children, Ramesh and Shailesh, who were collecting donations for an 'orphanage' in Dalmianagar, Bihar, led to admission by these children that they were being used by a gang of kidnappers. When the police arrested the man who had brought these children here, he confessed to belong to an interstate gang of kidnappers. Based on this information, the police raided some addresses in Varanasi and Kanpur but other gang-members could not be arrested. Meanwhile Ramesh said that after having been kidnapped from Varanasi, he had been

Even the beasts do not allow o

widespread attention not only by his devotion to providing medicare to the poor but also by his courageous exposure of corruption, also came across striking evidence of the operations of such gangs. To quote from his findings: I have examined a number of these beggars, who are put out each morning by the syndicate and collected, with their takings, in the evenings, and found in some cases their injuries are surprisingly symmetrical. For example, the amputation operations carried out on the fingers of one hand and matched in this case by identical operations on the fingers of the other hand, at the corresponding sites. Of course, some road and rail accidents to inflict roughly corresponding injuries on the limbs and the favoured operation sites would also correspond. But there are simply too many beggars on the Dakha streets with symmetrical amputations for one's suspicions not to be aroused."

Labourer, Prostitute

According to other evidences collected by Dr. Preger, the Dakha begging syndicate also had a squad of beggars with severe malformations of the limbs. It appears from the type of malformations that some of these were not congenital but had been acquired by binding up the limbs for a period.

He has also revealed that the syndicate which organised this racket was quite powerful and it was likely that it even had links with the police. This was indicated by the fact that quite a few of its members were left untouched in the course of police operations to round up vagrants and common beggars.

Cheap Labour And Unknown Destinations

In a police raid on *dhabas* of Ghulampur, a small town on G.T. Road near Allahabad, 12 boys who had been lured away or kidnapped from several places were rescued. Here they were being underfed and made to work very hard. If they protested, they were beaten up and even whipped.

Ram Bahadur was an inmate of an orphanage in Kanpur from where he was picked up by an unknown person and sold to a landlord in Ludhiana. Both his hands were chipped off while threshing wheat. In an unconscious state he was left outside the hospital in Ludhiana. Later both his hands were amputated and he was forced to beg in the streets for some time before being rescued

well—off eunuchs (*gurus*), Mr. Bhola has alleged. This is the factor that explains the large and rapidly rising population of eunuchs in India, he has alleged. These youths are in fact even sold by one eunuch group to another.

In 1982 a large number of children were kidnapped from several slum areas in trans-yamuna area of Delhi-Seelampur, New Seelampur, Jaffrabad, Chauhan Bangar, Brahmpuri and Maujpur—all areas inhabited mainly by the poor and located closer to each other. On May 19, a mob attacked a building known as Kashmiri Building in Jaffrabad which was widely believed among people here to be the centre of the

The destination of kidnapped children, specially male kidnapped children in many such known cases of large-scale organised kidnapping remain unknown. One of the reasons which has been speculated upon is the extremely cruel one of the sale of body-parts, but no concrete evidence has emerged to the best of this writer's knowledge.

The Pakistan daily *Dawn* reported on September 18 that some children aged three to seven were rescued at Karachi airport before they could be taken to Dubai. These children, it was later revealed, were being taken away to be tied to the tails of camels which would be racing.

Prostitution

A large number of female children and teenagers are kidnapped for their use in prostitution. Some of the male children who are kidnapped are also used in the sex market.

In the 1950s the Report of the Advisory Committee of Social and Moral Hygiene had noted in the context of brothels in Bombay, "Girls from Khandesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Bijapur, Hubli and Saurashtra and also from Nepal could not have been established in the city but for the fact that procurers had brought them to the city".

A survey of 350 prostitutes in Kamathipura brothels, in Bombay, made by S.D. Puneekar and Kamla Rao, concluded: "We are strongly inclined to believe that there are regular vice rackets operating in rural areas to supply girls to the city brothels."

It is well-known that many of the women supplied to the brothels of Bombay and other cities of Maharashtra in recent decades were originally *devdasis* in the villages and towns of Maharashtra and Karnataka. These *devdasis* were those unfortunate girls from poor families who were dedicated to a Goddess Devi Yelamma by their parents. After dedication these girls, called *Jogtis* or known by other names, could not marry. They could only be mistresses of men but by convention it was not binding on these men to maintain them. This further paved the way for *Jogtis* ending up in regular prostitution.

Recently a detailed study of *devdasis* was made by a research scholar Harshad Trivedi, whose findings were published in a book 'Scheduled Caste Women—Studies in Exploitation'. According to this study, the *devdasi* system was prevalent under different names in various parts in Solapur, Satara, Kolhapur and Bijapur. There were some common features. Almost all the girls sent to brothels were from poor families,

and at the caste level from scheduled castes or tribes.

A study has revealed that one third of the prostitutes in Bombay's cheapest brothels are *devdasis* and about three-quarters of these were under 14 when they took to the profession.

A 1985 review of this system published in the *Indian Express* said that it is prevalent in Belgaum, Hubli, Dharwar, Bijapur and Belary districts of Karnataka and the Songli, Sholapur, Kolhapur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra. Nearly 4000 to 5000 girls are dedicated annually to the Goddess Yelamma.

Hardly anything new needs to be added to the now well-known facts about girl-running rackets in Dholpur-Morena belt on Rajasthan - M.P. - U.P. border. Suffice it to say that a spate of reports, (following the sensational 'purchase' of a girl from the 'girls market' of this area by a journalist some years back) have further confirmed the existence of large-scale prostitution in some communities of this area into which girls kidnapped or lured away from other parts of the country are also inducted from time to time. Prostitution and girl-running has existed in this area for a long-time, and vested interests of this trade are well-entrenched having secured the collusion of police and politicians at various levels. In 1981 a 'Bedia' social worker had provided a senior official with a list of 71 persons belonging to his community who were engaged in girl-running.

There have been reports of hundreds of girls from Dakshin Kannada district of Karnataka, and from neighbouring areas of Shimoga and Kasargod, having been taken to brothels of Bombay at regular intervals, generally at times of crop-failure. Starting in their early teens and 'retiring' in their late twenties or early thirties, these girls mostly from poor families have to give their best years to a life which they hate but which they could not avoid.

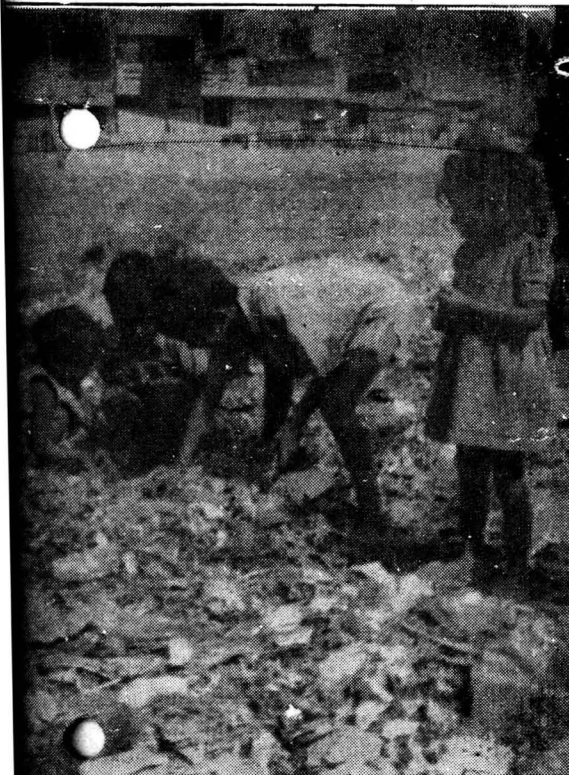
From parts of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat reports of traffic in girls from some tribal villages have been received. Tribals when questioned about women reported lost expressed the fear that they had been carried away for prostitution but added they were helpless to stop this traffic.

Jaunsar-Bawar and Ravai-Jaunpur areas of Uttar Pradesh hills have also emerged as a leading centre for the procurers of girls for brothels of north India.

Survey conducted in Purola block in 1969 revealed that 45 women had been lured away to prostitution during this year from this one block alone. Nearly 500 families had by then become victims of this trade. It was also found that 77 agents were operating in the Rawai area for the procurement of girls and approximately 60 per cent of all girls supplied from this region went to Delhi.

Avadesh Kaushal, a well known personality of Dehradun district

Continued on page 10



FG PHOTO

12 boys who had been lured away or kidnapped from several places where rescued during a police raid at Gulampur. There they were being underfed and made to work very hard. If they protested, they were beaten up and even whipped

children to eat in peace

Apart from using kidnapped children to run begging rackets a few reports suggest that some of these children are also used as cheap labour in some areas. This made newspaper headlines some years ago when a meeting of Bonded Liberation front in Daltonganj, Bihar, it was announced that children in Palamu, Bihar, were being kidnapped to supply child labourers to the carpet weaving industry of Mirzapur. However, a social worker who visited one such village in Palamu district to make detailed inquiries learnt that it was more a case of luring away children, making full use of the extreme poverty of their parents, than a case of kidnapping. But similar allegations of kidnapping have cropped up in the context of recent cases of such children being taken to carpet weaving centres of U.P. (as mentioned in the beginning of this article), which need to be investigated further.

and rehabilitated.

On October 27, 1988 the Crime Branch of Delhi Police arrested five eunuchs for allegedly castrating a youth the previous year. The victim, a Balmiki Harijan named Jagdish (now known as Ranjita) who was a married man, was thrown in the bushes in Bela road locality after his genitals had been cut and bleeding did not stop.

According to Sanjay Abhigyan, a young journalist who has written a project report for the school of Social Journalism, Times Research Foundation on this subject, this is not an isolated incident and there have been several such cases of eunuchs castrating youths.

Mr. Khairati Lal Bhola, President of All India Eunuchs Welfare Association (Akhil-Bhartiya Hijra Kalayan Sabha), has alleged that a very large number of youths are first led astray by the eunuchs, given intoxicants and then castrated. Several of them die in the course of this cruel and painful process. Those who survive work almost like the servants of

activities of a gang engaged in kidnapping. Several old clothes, shoes and photographs alleged to be those of the kidnapped persons were found here. This writer visited some families of kidnapped children and teenagers who gave detailed identification marks confirming that the discarded clothes they saw there indeed belonged to their missing children. It was also alleged at this time that the Police was protecting the main criminal. In Dacca Dr. Jack Preyer exposed a racket involving an aid agency in which children were temporarily taken away from flood and drought ravaged families for their better care, but then sent abroad without their knowledge.

In a statement on August 7, 1982, P.K. Chandra and M.R. Arya, two Delhi-based leaders of BJP said that five members of a gang of child-lifters were stoned to death by the public on July 8 at Sampla Railway Station near Rohtak in Haryana when 8 persons in the garb of Sudhus were found carrying children while travelling in a train from Delhi.

Continued from page 9

who has achieved the rare distinction of combining government service with social activism, told this writer about five years back that over 500 girls from this region are operating in the brothels of Delhi, Meerut, Saharanpur and other cities. This despite the fact that in an earlier extensive raid on Kabadi Bazar brothels nearly 500 girls from this region had been rescued, at least temporarily.

In Kashmir recently a racket of obtaining Bihari Muslim girls from Murshidabad district of West Bengal and selling them in Kashmir was unearthed.

Some years back the way in which a school girl was kidnapped—the crime first ignored by the police and then girl soon recovered from Jaipur after the Supreme Court's intervention—indicated that this kidnapping was part of a regular racket in which the police was also involved in some way. The victim's father, in fact gave several names of a gang members which operated in the Jahangirpuri colony of Delhi.

Police intervened in time to save five Orissa girls who had been enticed away from poor families in the villages of Dhenkanal district by an agent on the promise of providing them lucrative jobs in Punjab. They were brought to a house in a village in Bhatinda district, and allegedly locked up in the house of one Sukhdev Singh. Negotiations were allegedly started for their sale to rich landowners, but the timely police intervention prevented this.

Other such cases of selling girls to sex-starved landowners in the green revolution areas have also been reported.

In 1980 a racket of selling girls brought from Bangla Desh reported to have been busted in Amritsar.

Some time back the Hardwar police busted a gang of 11 women and 4 men which used to kidnap girls from Bihar and sell them in western U.P.

In Bilari, Moradabad district of U.P. Chatra Yuva Sangharah Vahani activists tried to expose a racket which involved bringing women from poor families of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in collusion with railway police, then selling some of them in areas around Bilari and sending others to further destinations.

Some years back concerned people from the villages of Shahjahanpur, Khiri and Bahraich (the terai areas) had agitated for days in front of U.P. Chief Minister's residence in Lucknow. One of their demands was to punish the persons trafficking in girls in their villages. According to residents of Mohanpur, girls kidnapped from West Bengal and Bihar were brought to this village through a network of traffickers. These girls were generally purchased by upper caste men who could not get married due to some stigma or other.

Recently participants from Nepal and Bangla Desh

attending the 'Asian Conference on Exploitation of Women and Children—Its causes and Effects' reported that a major area of concern was the constant trickle of women from these countries into other Asian countries, specially India. Ms Ishrat Shamim, a social worker and educationist from Bangla Desh informed that the route normally followed is from some border into Calcutta-Bombay-Karachi and finally to some West Asian countries. She said that efforts to free 15 women detained in Calcutta jails had failed. In Karachi hundreds of Bangladesh women were languishing in jails, she said.

The conference was informed that there are 75000 to 100000 Nepali girls all over India who make out a living through prostitution. Three Nepali delegates present the conference quoted estimates which indicated that the majority of these girls were in metropolitan cities—about 12000 in Delhi, 18000 in Bombay and 15000 in Calcutta.

In addition investigations have revealed that several protection-homes have themselves been involved in the abuse of girls kept there.

International Sex-Market Which Uses Children,

Disturbing evidence has become available in recent years of the large-scale existence of sexual child abuse in many countries for which children from Third World countries are also smuggled, using various channels, including fake adoption rackets. One such racket was exposed by a dedicated British doctor, Dr. Jack Preger, in Dakha some years back in which highly corrupt officials working for foreign aid organisations were involved.

A report prepared by Norway's Justice Department has recorded a steep rise in recent years in the sexual abuse of children in both Europe and the Third World.

"If the market requires video films featuring toddlers in physically damaging intercourse situations, then these are produced", says this report of Norway's Justice Department.

According to Roger Sawyer, author of a recently published book 'Children Enslaved', 264 US pornographic magazines specialise in children. In a year in which child pornography netted 500 million dollars, police seized 15000 pornographic slides of young boys and 4000 films showing children under 10 years performing sexual acts.

According to Sawyer the physical suffering of children used in pornographic film industry, in prostitution, and in the narcotics trade,

makes most child labourers of the Third World seem privileged in comparison.

In Paris there are an estimated 8000 child prostitutes, both boys and girls, originating mainly from Algeria or Morocco.

In the U.S., 50-so-called stables of boy prostitutes aged between 12 and 14 have been found in major cities.

According to the U.K. based Anti-slavery society, the largest completely open market for the buying and selling of slaves is just outside Bangkok in Thailand's largest railway station. Children as young as six years old can be

According to residents of Mohanpur, girls kidnapped from West Bengal and Bihar were brought to this village through a network of traffickers. These girls were generally purchased by upper caste men who could not get married due to some stigma or other

bought for around 80 pounds. An estimated 6000 children are traded on this market every year. The pretiest of them end up in Bangkok's thriving sex industry.

A report by David Hayes on the misuse of children in Thailand states, "Attractive children are often sold to brothels which may offer clients special services. Tourists staying at some Bangkok hotels are shown advertising cards by taxi drivers offering "boys and girls" and special sexual services. The proliferation of 'short-time hotels' that offer an almost exclusive selection of underage children indicates possible police complicity in ensuring the continuation of

the seedier aspects of forced child employment."

According to the recent Cleveland child abuse report from U.K., "The problems of child sexual abuse have been recognised to an increasing extent over the past few years by professionals...child abuse is not a myth but is a very real and serious national problem."

Some years back a nation wide investigation carried out in Britain by an M.P. also revealed evidence of increasing use of children, often of tender age for pornographic purposes. This M.P. also said that mostly Indian and West Indian children were being used for this purpose.

Renee Bridel, a Swiss U.N. delegate in Geneva who has researched international traffic in children has stated, "This involves hundreds of thousands of children from all over the Third World, and certainly from, Bangla Desh...they are sent to wealthy countries everywhere including the U.S. and Canada. Begging doesn't really bring in big money. Pornography does. The biggest income comes from the very young children, down to the ages of 2 and 3 years. They are filmed and photographed in paedophile and even with animals. You can buy these cassettes at Kioska all over the world and project them at home. And there are snuff films now in the market in which teenaged girls are actually put to death. From what I know, these films are made by American gangsters in Hong Kong and Manila, and screened in the U.S.A. and South America. It is very costly to see them and very clandestine".

Recent arrests of gang-members engaged in kidnapping children and their questioning has revealed that several children kidnapped from Patna are being sent to Nepal and from there to other countries.

Recommendations

On the basis of the description given above of the various ways in which children are kidnapped or lured away from their parents for various types of cruel and ruthless misuse, we would like to recommend the following courses of action—

1. From time to time limited success has been achieved in busting such rackets. However, a careful review of such actions would reveal that due to various reasons such actions are sometimes left midway or appropriate follow-up work is not done. For instance one or more girls who are in news due to some reasons may be rescued, but evidence of

existence, at the same place, of several other ill-fated girls are brushed aside. At least to some extent corruption and the resulting tendency to protect criminals is also involved here. Whatever the reasons, these have to be overcome and the various avenues opened up by initial investigations in such cases should be fully explored.

2. Due to a complex of factors some regions and communities have become the centres of girl-running rackets and other related crimes. Social reforms efforts combined with avenues of alternative employment should be stressed in such areas, combined with strict action against hardened criminals who simply refuse to change their ways. Here it should be remembered that vested interests including corrupt politicians and officials have also emerged in these areas and it would be useless to try to attempt reforms through the channels of corrupted vested interests. On the other hand some social workers who have taken a courageous stand to check the ills of their communities can plan a very useful role if the due protection and encouragement is extended to them. Unfortunately, such protection is often lacking. In Jaunsar-Bawar area Puri, a youth who had shown great courage in confronting a girl-runner was murdered in broad day light and yet effective action was not taken against his murderers for a long time. At present in several such areas the existing situation is so dismal that the racketeers are turning into influential and successful persons while the reformers face threat to their lives. Despite this some of the courageous reformers have continued their efforts.
3. Keeping in view the massive human sufferings caused by the existence of these rackets, to the children as well as to their family members, it is surprising that voluntary organisations and social workers, public spirited lawyers and civil rights activists have also not given these issues the attention that these clearly deserve. They should exert themselves so that this issue is not neglected.
4. Keeping in view the international aspects of this traffic, efforts have to be made in other countries from where reports of any misuse of our children is received. Better coordination with neighbouring countries specially Nepal and Bangla Desh has to be achieved to check several girl running-rackets.

(N.F.S. India)

Jodhpur Detenus

Judicial Inquiry And Compensation Sought

By FG Correspondent

World-wide condemnations have been flowing into the country on the illegal and culpable detention of the innocents in the Jodhpur jail. The government has been playing with the lives of these innocents since 3 June 1984. The detenus have been considered as second-class hostages to embark upon the so-called peace-making process in the Punjab. The government has no intention to trial these people. It has even no intention to allow these young people to build their own future. The government's action reflects a total lack of understanding and vision.

In a memorandum submitted to the President, Mr R. Venkataraman, recently, Lt Col Manohar Singh (Retd), convenor of the South Delhi Singh Sabhas, entreated the release of the detenus in the Jodhpur jail. Mr Manohar Singh appraised the President of the inhuman and barbaric treatment meted out to the innocents who had been under detention since the Operation Blue Star. He demanded that the detenus should either be put on trial or be set free forthwith. In the memorandum he also demanded a judicial inquiry into the prison guards' excesses on the detenus and a compensatory amount of Rs400,000 for each detenu.

The text of the memorandum follows:

"I take this opportunity to appraise you with the true picture about the inhuman treatment having been meted out to the Sikh detenus in Jodhpur jail at various stages from the time curfew was imposed around the Darbar Sahib (The Golden Temple Amritsar) during the Operation Blue Star on 3 June 1984 and till they were lodged in Jodhpur jail and during their illegal detention in Jodhpur jail. This step is very important from the point of knowing the woeful tales and rendering remedial measures to restore confidence in the Sikh Community in the Government machinery and for bringing normalcy in torturing/ill treatment of the detenus to deter such category of people operating law and order set up, thus creating sense of basic discipline and discharge of their duty entrusted to them tactfully and respectfully without bringing public resentment against the government. The basic fact is that these detenus were placed under the safe custody in the jail, and also in various military camps, as such no one had any right to vio-

late this responsibility.

I am enclosing photostats of a few cuttings of interviews of the Jodhpur jail detenus from 'Ajit' a daily Punjabi paper, which has its all over the world circulation and is published from Jalandhar, Punjab. These cuttings contain the woeful tales of torture and ill-treatment of the innocent devotees who had assembled at Amritsar to pay their obeisance on the martyrdom day of Guru Arjun Devji and to attend to some business also, instead of going back to their homes they landed up in various military camps, investigating centres and eventually in Jodhpur jail.

Instead of enclosing translation in English of each cutting, I am penning down important points, which I hope will project the correct picture about the episode of the detenus, and would move you kind heart to take requisite steps to save those still in Jodhpur jail from the torture and ill-treatment, rather provide them with conditions to spend their days of agony

at least with the sense of self-respect as people of the same soil.

At Darbar Sahib Amritsar and in military camps

Since Curfew was imposed on 3 June 1984, no one could go outside Darbar Sahib. They were

arrested. They were subjected to grenade attacks in which about 190 men got killed and some injured. Their hands were tied and they were made to stand in the hot sun. They were put on ice slabs and hung up, upside down. They were kept in some armoury rooms, which had no ventilation and the smell of the rifle oil caused suffocation about 45 to 60 persons in jam packed room. About 27 of them died. Detenus were denied water for days together. When cried for it, military men brought water and threw it on the floor. The water was soaked in pieces of cloth and then sucked. One day, military men asked them to come out to have water. As soon they came out they were gunned down in which 28 men got killed. The common mode of torture was to deny food, water, medical treatment and whenever food was served, it was not fit for the human consumption. They were hit with heavy sticks and rifle butts and broke their ribs and legs. Not allowed to go out to use lavatory and bathrooms. They had to do everything inside the room.

Since the people specially the young boys' career has suffered due to their being under detention for a period of four years, each detenus be compensated with rupees four lakhs



When Lt Col Manohar Singh (Retd) submitted the memorandum to the President, Mr R. Venkataraman

Jodhpur Jail

In general the attitude of the jail staff being very anti-Sikh, as such the treatment given to them was humiliating one. The food provided was unbearable. It was not even fit for animal consumption. The water issued was between 2 to 5 litres a day. It was never sufficient for washing cloths and bathing. The medical treatment was absolutely unsatisfactory. The beating of the detenus was a routine. Due to such inhuman conditions many people passed away and a large number lost mental equilibrium. They have been rendered unfit mentally and physically to earn for themselves and to maintain their family members specially the old parents.

After Release.

Those who have been released have not been provided with any service or compensation. Some of them are being harassed by the local police.

Prayer

In view of the above woeful tales and having undergone sufferings over a period of 4 years under illegal detention, the following prayer is made to provide conditions for those unfortunate people to lead some respectable life.

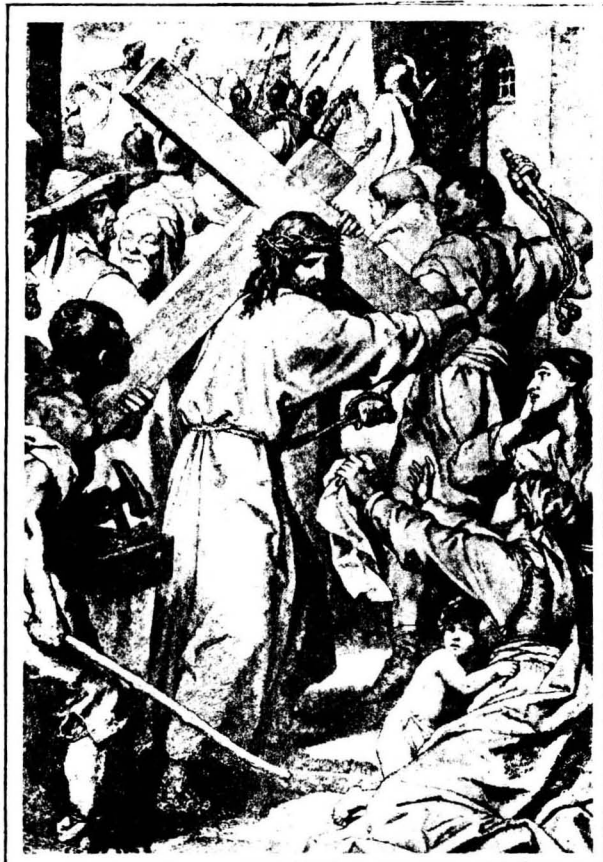
a) A judicial inquiry be held under a judge of High Court to inquire into the torture and ill treatment of the detenus, and pin down the persons responsible for actually involved in the torture/ill-treatment and the high ups who failed to control their staff, and, as such neglected their duties as superior officers. On the basis of the inquiry guilty be given exemplary punishment, which should be made public too, as a deterrent for others.

b) Since the people specially the young boys' career has suffered due to their being under detention for a period of 4 years, each detenus be compensated with Rupees Four Lakhs, to be able to take care of his future.

Keeping the present state of affairs in Punjab, it is necessary that full cooperation of all category of people is voluntarily obtained to bring normalcy in the state. To this end, the prayer if conceded would be a great remedial measure to heal the wounded hearts of the Sikh masses in the Punjab".

Good Friday

By Varghese Chacko



Good Friday is the day on which Jesus Christ was crucified on the mount of Calvary about 2000 years ago. Many might have confused in the naming of this day, for the day of one's death is not considered as a good one, that too when it is that of a popular leader of considerable following. Then why it is called 'Good Friday'? Because it is followed by an Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection. Had there not been an Easter Sunday, Good Friday would not have remained good. Thus Good Friday is always connected with Easter. Over a billion Christians of the world accept both these days as real and historical though there are differences of opinion in fixing the exact date. The death of Christ on the cross and His resurrection on the third day are historical facts.

Christ's death on the cross still remains a mystery for many. "If Christ was the son of God, how can He be killed by humans?" "How God can have a son?" Questions like these emerge from many an enlightened mind. When Christ is depicted as the son of God in the Bible, it is never based on the formula of a human father and son. God does not have a son as many presume. Christ is God Himself, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Trinity is another mystery and to give an approximate idea, in terms with human understanding, about the relationship between the first and second persons of the Trinity (i.e. God the father and God the Christ) Christ

is shown as the son in the Bible. No human mind ever can comprehend in totality, the greatness of God or the way He dwells and acts. The Bible tells us only about a part of His unique and matchless personality. It can be seen at many places in the Bible where God the father addresses the Son as 'God' and calls Him as 'the God' who created the heavens and earth.

Let us come back to Good Friday again. According to the Bible, more got himself separated from God by the disobedience and inherited the position of sinness. God's law says that a sinner must die (Here I am referring to the spiritual death). This ruling comes from a just and righteous God. On the other hand the love of God never wants men to be eternally destroyed. There was only one way to avert this, that a sinless man must die for the sins of the whole world. But where is that sinless man? The descendants of Adam can never be sinless. No human being, however pious and devoted he may be, can be sinless in God's sight. There was only one answer to this problem—God to become man and thus the second person of the Trinitarian God became man and dwelt among man. The virgin birth also was an inevitable necessity. For, if He was born of a human father he would have inherited sin as His birthright. On the other hand if He was not born of at least one human parent, He cannot claim to be a perfect man. For God's law demands a

perfect man who could live without doing any sin even in his thoughts, while going through all the tribulations and temptations of an ordinary human being. Jesus did all of this. He was hungry, he wept, he loved, he felt pity, he cared, humbled himself, was persecuted, was beaten, was betrayed, was abandoned, he prayed, was tortured brutally and over and above he was tempted with the unparalleled pressure. But in spite of all these, He did not even sin once. Thus as a perfect human being Jesus conquered sin and paid the penalty for the whole world with His own blood. Apostle John describes Christ in these words "In the beginning there was word, the word was with God, the word was God and the word became flesh and dwelt among us".

Just before His death Jesus cried aloud "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me". When He was dying, the sins of the whole world was levied on Him and during that moment the second person of the Trinity ceased to exist in Him and the first person, who hates sin, turned His

Readjustment, Not Reversal

Continued from page 1

have done instead is to evolve a new mechanism of control. Whenever the SSP goes out, he would be accompanied by a member of the IAS. In fact young IAS officers are to be posted in a number of other places as well. It is not necessary to go into the sphere of work of the police officers and the IAS officers. What is important is that this system is not going to work.

Seen from the government point of view, it is a dilemma. Any action against the police is taken to be a step towards demoralisation. Even in a case where a judicial enquiry was held by Justice Tiwana no action has been taken. Nor indeed will it be taken. To do so would demoralise the police, as they say.

If the morale of the police is important, does it follow that they are a law unto themselves? This is precisely the situation. When a man like Chaman Lal tried to rectify the situation, he was pushed out or allowed to leave, whichever way we choose to put it. His only fault was that he tried to draw a distinction between the terrorists and the common people. That is the nub of the problem.

The Congress(I) policy all these years has been not to draw this distinction. But unless this distinction is drawn, peace will never return to this State. This is what the experience of the last few years has shown.

In modifying some of the policies followed so far, the Prime Minister has not admitted that these were wrong. Can he offer any justification for keeping more than 300 innocent people in jail for over four years and put only the rest of them on trial? This is what was suggested right from the beginning. "You try those against

whom there is some evidence. In the case of others, they are innocent and they should not be detained without trial for so many years". But nobody listened.

If the Prime Minister believes that he is going to win friends now because so many people are being released, he is utterly mistaken. On the contrary, people are going to demand an explanation as to why they were kept behind the bars when there was no case against them.

That is not the only thing. Even today there are 8000-9000 people behind the bars in the State of Punjab. They have neither been brought on trial nor are they likely to be brought. Some of them have been there for a year or two; others for a shorter duration. Every day people are picked up and detained. No charges are referred against them. The fact of the matter is that there is no law. The police did what it want with the unavoidable consequence that the public, even when they suffered at the hands of the terrorists, did not choose to collaborate with the police.

It has been a vicious circle. Even now it cannot be said to have been broken. All that has happened is that some new adjustments are being made so that the new management is more defensible than has been the situation so far. It is not suggested that these concessions are unwelcome. They are welcome but for anyone to imagine that they are going to solve the problem would be a total misunderstanding.

There are so many more things that can be said on the subject. For instance, hardly any Congressman could go to any village without the help of the security

forces. Therefore, security was needed not only against the terrorists but also to protect those who defended the Government policies. Obviously such a system could not keep on working indefinitely and it had to be changed.

One evidence of this change is the trial balloon called the Panchayat elections which are to be held in May-June. The intention is to see which way the wind is blowing and how can Congress(I) return to power, if it can. What the Prime Minister had to say about the punishment of the guilty in regard to Delhi riots is ludicrous were it also not tragic.

Half a dozen people have been given life imprisonment. This has not happened because the State machinery has secured the conviction. This has happened because one courageous woman named the murderers of her husband because they were her neighbours. The convictions have been secured by her and not by the State machinery.

Those who planned the killing are riding high and basking in the political sunshine. Nobody is going to be deceived by what has happened. It has happened in spite of the Delhi Administration.

It is the time to recognise that what is being done is half-hearted and grudging. What needs to be done is much more than what has been done so far.

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Professor Grammar

Useful rules to help you with English grammar



Hello again!

Do you feel strong enough to tackle relative clauses? There are many different types. Here are some descriptions you may come across:

Defining clauses
Non-defining clauses
Prepositional relative clauses
Defining prepositional clauses
Prepositional co-ordinate clauses
Relative clauses are so complex, I get tired just thinking about them. Let's just look at some *defining relative clauses* and *non-defining relative clauses*.

Defining Relative Clauses

During my programme on the wireless, I concentrated on defining relative clauses and some of the different relative pronouns that could be used. The relative pronouns I looked at in the programme were: *that*, *which* and *who*. Here are some examples:

Relative clause

<i>that</i>		
1. The man	that I saw	was angry.
2. The car	that I bought	was beautiful.
<i>who</i>		
3. The man	who spoke	was very tall.
<i>which</i>		
4. The book	which I wanted	was by Jane Austin.

Who is used to refer to people, *which* to refer to things and *that* to refer to either people or things.

In all but one of the above sentences, it is possible to leave out the relative pronoun:

1. The man	I saw	was angry.
2. The car	I bought	was beautiful.
3. The man	who spoke	was very tall.
4. The book	I wanted	was by Jane Austin.

In sentence 3 the relative pronoun *who* cannot be left out because it is the subject of the relative clause.

In sentences 1, 2 and 4 the relative pronouns can be left out because they are not the subjects of the verbs in the relative clauses. *I* is the subject of the verb in the relative clauses in sentences 1, 2 and 4; the relative pronouns are the objects of the verbs in the relative clauses.

Now try the following exercise. Fill in the gaps with *that*, *who*, *which* or *nothing at all*! In many sentences there is more than one answer. Remember, English is flexible!

EXERCISE A)

- The house ___ I own is pink.

- The vase ___ he broke cost Rs. 100.
- The colour ___ I saw was awful.
- The film ___ I saw was awful.
- The scarf ___ I bought was made of silk.
- The man ___ told me was an authority on the subject.
- The name ___ I like is John.
- The car ___ is over there is my favourite.
- The postcard ___ I sent was of Buckingham Palace.
- The record ___ is playing is called 'Walk of Life'.

Non-defining Relative Clauses

So far in this article I have only looked at defining relative clauses. The information in a defining relative clause is important. We need this information to define the subject of the sentence.

Who or whom?

Whom is a relative pronoun for the sophisticated student. In formal English it is used when the pronoun is the object of the relative clause:

- The man/who spoke/was my brother.
- The man/whom you spoke to/was my brother.

In the first sentence *who* is the subject of the relative clause. In the second sentence *you* is the subject and *whom* is the object. A very very formal (some would say pompous) version of the second sentence would be: *The man/to whom you spoke/was my brother.*

Now try this exercise. Fill in the spaces with *who* or *whom*.

EXERCISE B)

- The people.....live there are very noisy.
- The broadcaster.....I most admire is Paddy Feeney.
- The person.....you wish to see is out at the moment.
- The woman to.....I was talking is Lady Primrose.
- People.....live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- The person of.....I speak is Sir Hubert Featherstone-Hall.
- The man.....invented the radio was Guglielmo Marconi.
- The player.....wins this match will go on to the semi-final.
- The person for.....this party is given is out of the country.
- The woman.....I married is, of course, Mrs Grammar.

NB: *Whom*, like the other relative pronouns, is often left out because it is the object of the relative clause. However, *whom*, must not be left out when it follows a preposition, for example:
The woman to whom I was talking.....

Which/who or that?

It is possible to use either *that* or *which/who* in a defining relative clause. However, I prefer *that*. Indeed, sentences with superlatives or indefinite pronouns sound very awkward if you use the relative pronouns *which/who*. Consider these examples:

SUPERLATIVES (*best, nicest, most beautiful etc.*)

- The best student that/who attended my classes loved exercises.
- The silliest thing that/which he did was to sell his car.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

(*Everything, nothing, all, etc.*)

- Everything that/which he said was nonsense.
- Nothing that/which we bought was cheap.

In Sentences 1-4 *that* is better style than *which/who*. So why make life difficult for yourself? Use *that* with defining relative clauses and you can't go wrong!!

EXAMPLE: *The man/whom you spoke to/was my brother.*

If you took out the information in the relative clause, you wouldn't know which man I was talking

about! A non-defining relative clause contains extra information. Without this information you would still understand the meaning of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: *My house, which is white, is very nice.*

You don't need the information in the relative clause to know that we are talking about my house.

SPECIAL RULES

Non-defining relative clauses: ALWAYS contain a relative pronoun

ALWAYS contain commas

NEVER contain the relative pronoun *that*

Problems arise when you are careless with commas. Compare these two sentences.

1. *My house, which is white, is nice.*

2. *My house which is white is nice.*

The first sentence is a non-defining relative clause (note the commas). If you take out the relative clause you are still talking about my house. The second sentence has a different meaning. It contains a defining relative clause (no commas). This relative clause defines which house I am talking about the one which is white. Perhaps I have a pink house as well!!! If you are speaking of course you can't see the commas. But you can tell the difference in speech there is a slight pause where you would write a comma.

Now try this exercise on defining and non-defining relative clauses.

EXERCISE C)

- a) John's car, which is red, is

very fast.

b) John's car which is red is very fast.

In which sentence does John have more than one car?

2. a) The work which I enjoy is answering letters.

b) The work, which I enjoy, is answering letters.

In which sentence does the writer just answer letters?

3. a) All students, who study English, learn vocabulary.

b) All students who study English learn vocabulary.

Which sentence is incorrect?

ANSWERS.

Exercise A)

- that/which
- that/which
- that/which
- that/which
- that/which
- that/who
- that/which
- that/which
- that/which
- that/which

Exercise B)

- who, 2. whom, 3. whom, 4. whom, 5. who, 6. whom, 7. who, 8. who, 9. whom, 10. whom

Exercise C)

1b, 2b, 3a Because, unfortunately, not all students study English! That sentence with commas: All students, who study English, learn vocabulary, could be interpreted as combining two pieces of information: 1 All students study English. 2 All students learn vocabulary. Neither statement is true.

Words' World

Anagram Pairs

Using the clues, make eight pairs of words, the second of which is an anagram of the first plus the extra letter indicated. For example, if you were asked to turn a lament into a belt with an L, the first answer would be DIRGE, the second GIRDLE.

1 Turn a weapon into a source of light		+ D	
2 Turn maritime marauders into top mammals		+ M	
3 Turn crystallized limestone into a prickly shrub		+ B	
4 Make heavenly bodies agreeable		+ A	
5 Turn a ship's canvas into a gangway		+ E	
6 Turn a wanderer into a type of plum		+ S	
7 Turn a European country into a heating apparatus		+ U	
8 Turn a cultivated plot of land into a small bomb		+ E	

Answers: Anagram Pairs

1. Lance, Candle, 2. Pirates, Pri-
mates, 3. Marble, Bramble, 4. Pla-
nets, Pleasant, 5. Sail, Aisle, 6.
Nomad, Damsel, 7. France, Fur-
nace, 8. Garden, Grenade

Hungary Lifts The Nehru Gold Cup

Hungary made history repeat itself at the Nehru Stadium on February 4, As in 1983 when they won the Jawahar Lal Nehru Gold cup when they avenged in the final defeat they had suffered in the League encounter as against China. They battled the score for the defeat at the hands of the Soviet Union in the league phase.

The Magyars scored once in each half to claim the trophy from the hands of the Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Margaret Alva.

The Hungarians won Rs. 50,000 for their success and the Soviet Rs. 25,000 Robert Jovan, who scored 6 goals, was awarded the

top marks man's cup. A total number of 36 goals were scored in the 16 day long tournament.

Tournament Highlights

Total Goals Scored: 36 (15 in the first, 21 in the second half) in 16 matches (Avg 2.25).

Biggest Victory: 5-1 (Hungary beat Poland)

Most Goals in a Match: 6 (Hungary 5, Poland 1)

Most Goals scored by a team: 14 by Hungary

Most Goals conceded by a team: 10 by Poland

Self Goal: Zsolt Mariasi (Hungary) vs. Poland

Most Goals by a player: 6 by Robert Jovan (Hungary)

Results At A Glance

Final Points Table

Teams	S.U	Hun	N.K.	Iraq	Pol	Ind	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
S. Union	-	3-2	1-0	1-0	2-0	2-0	5	5	0	0	9	2	10
Hungary	2-3	-	3-0	1-0	5-1	1-0	5	4	0	1	12	4	8
N. Korea	0-1	0-3	-	0-0	2-0	2-1	5	2	1	2	4	5	5
Iraq	0-1	0-1	0-0	-	1-1	2-1	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Poland	0-2	1-5	0-2	1-1	-	2-0	5	1	1	3	4	10	3
India	0-2	0-1	1-2	1-2	0-2	-	5	0	0	5	2	9	0

Results Of League Matches

Date	Teams	Score	H.T.	Scorer
19-1-89	Hungary	3	(2-0)	Peters Tamas, Laszlo, Zoltan
	North Korea	0	-	-
20-1-89	Poland	2	(0-0)	Jacek Bayer, M. Kublistal
	India	0	-	-
21-1-89	Soviet Union	1	(0-0)	Igor Kolyvanov
	Iraq	0	-	-
22-1-89	Hungary	5	(2-0)	Zoltan (2), Robert Jovan (2), P. Tamas
	Poland	1	(Zsolt Mariasi-self)	-
23-1-89	North Korea	0	(0-0)	-
	Iraq	0	-	-
24-1-89	Soviet Union	2	(0-0)	Igor Shalimov, Ketashvili
	India	0	-	-
25-1-89	Hungary	1	(1-0)	Peters Tamas
	Iraq	0	-	-
26-1-89	Soviet Union	2	(2-0)	Igor Shalimov, Reshivili
	Poland	0	-	-
27-1-89	North Korea	2	(1-0)	Yong Nam, Kim Yun Chol
	India	1	-	Bikash Panji
28-1-89	Soviet Union	3	(1-0)	Kobelev (2), Reshivili
	Hungary	2	-	R. Jovan, Jonas Gyula
29-1-89	Iraq	2	(2-1)	R. Shanshal, Sameer Kadame, Satyajit Chatterjee
	India	1	-	-
30-1-89	North Korea	2	(1-0)	Chu Yong Sik, Li Hyon Chol
	Poland	0	-	-
31-1-89	Hungary	1	(1-0)	Jovan Robert
	India	0	-	-
01-2-89	Soviet Union	1	(0-0)	Sergi Pogodin
	North Korea	0	-	-
02-2-89	Poland	1	(0-0)	Kubisztal
	Iraq	1	-	Wali Khan

Final

04-2-89	Hungary	2	(1-0)	Z. Csusansky, Robert Jovan
	Soviet Union	0	-	-

Compiled By S. Pervaz Qaiser

Selectors Vs Players

Continued from page 16

Even the fine imposed on Mohinder is not justified. Why has he been fined? On doing well consistently and still being dropped, any player would have uttered such words out of sheer frustration. I don't think that his remarks were intended to insult any individual or committee but were the index of his frustration only. However, why have they dropped Maninder Singh? Has he also spoken any word against anyone?

How To Fight Against Injustice?

By Surinder Khanna

Former Indian wicket-keeper

I am wondering about the lessons that our youngsters must be learning from the controversy concerning Mohinder? Should the selection committee be such a high authority that no one can question about the fairness of its decisions? And if it is so, then where should a seasoned cricketer plead his case if one is meted out injustice for reasons of personal whims and prejudices? Sitting on the seats of judges, the

selectors are expected to be fair to all and above personal favours and prejudices.

I don't oppose the idea of penalty of a fine for an act of indiscipline but at the same time I should like to know that if Jimmy's outburst against the committee amounts to "indiscipline" then what is "discipline"? If keeping mum against the injustice is "discipline" then what is the reward for that? The omission of Maninder Singh is a case at hand. He has not spoken even a single word against anybody and yet is going through a phase of mental torture and embarrassment.

We in India don't know how to respect our cricketers. Either we adore them to the point of hero-worship or down grade them out and out. What is disappointing is the utter lack of courtesy and fitness in the axing of the two top-ranked players who could even boast of a place in the contemporary world eleven.

In the larger interests of the team, it would be proper if the selectors are asked to explain publicly the grounds for dropping two seasoned cricketers from the squad for the tour to West Indies. And the fairness of their "excuse" must be discussed at large with-

out any reservations.

The Caribbeans must be wondering at our wisdom of sidelining two best cricketers who could help rejuvenate the sagging Indian morale with their performances. Mohinder as the best bet against their hostile place bowling and Mahinder as the best bet of orthodox spin bowling against their key batsmen are the two like their Richards and Marshall.

Why Three Penalties For One Fault?

By Prithipal Singh

President, H.P. Cricket Association

Mohinder's remarks were not personal attack on someone. I consider it a matter of freedom of speech. He had (and have) a fundamental right to say whatever he felt or opined on cricket selection. What a surprise that every Tom, Dick and Harry has a right to comment on the Selection Committee for their favours and prejudices but the senior most cricketer of the world is denied of this privilege?

Secondly, if at all his remarks were against the code of conduct, how could he be penalised thrice?

First penalty: He was not picked up for any match against Kiwis thereby losing in terms of Tests played, runs scored, wickets dismissed and catches taken besides a personal loss of about Rs. 90,000/-. Mental harassment is also there.

Second penalty: He was asked to appear before a disciplinary committee, who imposed a fine of

Rs. 20,000/- without giving him a fair amount of hearing.

Third penalty: He was not picked for West Indies touring squad on the ground that he has not played any match during last three months. It is not his fault that he has not played matches. Who knows, he might be doing practice of his own. In my opinion, he could have figured easily and without any controversy in the probabilities and then if not found good enough in trials, could be dropped.

Sports Quiz

1. Which cricket reporter was also a renowned music critic?
2. How many umpires are required for a game of cricket?
3. How many officials are in charge of an American football game?
4. Who was the first woman cricketer to hit a six in a Test match?
5. Who sponsors Test cricket in England?
6. What fantasy game is often called D&D?
7. What is the name for the pieces of wood laid across cricket stumps?
8. Who was the first person to hit six sixes in an over of first class cricket?
9. Which famous cricketer became High Commissioner for Trinidad & Tobago?
10. In cricket, what is the name for a very short loose delivery which the batsman has plenty of time to hit?

Answers

1. Neville Cardus, 2. Two, 3. Six, 4. Rachel Heyhoe-Fillit (at Lords, 1952), 5. Cornhill Insurance, 6. Duncans & Dragons, 7. Balls, 8. Garfield Sobers, 9. Sir Learie Constantine, 10. Long hop.

—ACM Nazer

By Navin Chand

Selectors Vs Players

Every player has a dream of representing his country. Same is the case with North zone or Delhi players. They are performing well on the field and have already won Duleep Trophy and Deodhar Trophy tournaments. Delhi team is already in semi-finals of the Ranji Trophy and is strong favourite of winning the national championship. Yet it is the Delhi players who are axed and sidelined for no fault of theirs.

First it happened to Mohinder when New Zealanders visited the country for three Tests and five one-dayers. Then it happened with Bhaskar Pillai and Manoj Prabhakar as they were not figuring in the probables' list of 23 players. And finally, it was the turn of Maninder Singh, the best left-arm spinner in the current cricket fraternity, to get axed from the team that is to tour West Indies from February end.

The players and officials of the North Zone have every reason to feel that the national selection committee is not fair to the talents and potentials of its cricketers. While the seasoned cricketers are being axed on this or that excuse, the youngsters are not being picked up despite consistently giving good performances in various tournaments.



Maninder Singh

In the Ferozeshah Kotla ground, Delhi, everyone seems to be talking about the future of its players like Mohinder, Maninder, Raman Lamba, Bhaskar Pillai, Prabhakar and Manu Nayyar. During Bishan Bedi's reign as the captain or as the selector, as many as six or seven players used to be from North Zone and at times, the national team was formed around five Delhi players. Now only two—Sanjeev Sharma and Ajay Sharma are in the squad of 17 players picked up for the Caribbean tour.

The FORUM GAZETTE contacted some of the Delhi players, manager and officials to know their reactions about the dropping of Mohinder and Maninder Singh. What they said follows:

Where Should Our Cricketers Show Their Performance To Win The Vote Of The National Selectors?

By Prem Bhatia

(Manager, Delhi team)

There must be certain universally accepted criteria for selection or rejection of a player. What was the criteria under which Jimmy Amarnath was originally dropped against New Zealanders and now Maninder axed for the Caribbean tour? I want to know.

To say that they have been dropped on cricketing merits is not easily digested by any knowledgeable person of the game. For, both of them are known to best (or among the best) in their respective fields. In my earnest opinion, there is no justification in their being sidelined.

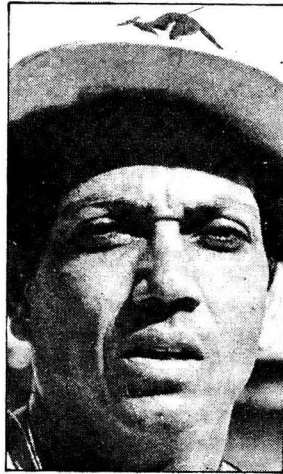
If one remembers, during Reliance cup competition, Clive Lloyd had said of Maninder Singh—"He is the best finest left-arm bowler in the world today." And now Indian team is going to the land of the Big Cat without Maninder. As a manager of the Delhi team, I know that Manni has not lost his sharpness even slightly. He is as good as ever and without him the Indian team will lose the biting teeth of its attack. I may also add that although both Ravi Shastri and Ajay Sharma are left-arm bowlers yet both are more of batsmen rather than spinners and neither of them can claim to be anywhere near the class of Maninder.

And about the Jimmy Amarnath, every one would concede that he is a cricketer of grit, technique and raw courage. Only a week before his axing from the national team, he had rescued and engineered the team from the jaws of defeat to the laurels of victory over Pakistan in the Asia Cup at Dhaka.

I would like to cite the examples of some other players also. First of all, Bhaskar Pillai. He was called upon to play for India in Jammu one-dayer against New Zealand. The match could not be played due to rain and Bhaskar was deprived of an opportunity. Since then, he has plundered runs in almost every match that he played including Deodhar and Ranji Trophy matches. Should I not know the justification of including him in the national team then and dropping now without any fault on his part?

Likewise, Manoj Prabhakar, Raman Lamba and Manu Nayyar have had an exceptionally good cricketing season in the domestic cricket, yet none of them got a berth among the 23 probables for the West Indies. If their performance in the domestic first-class cricket can't win the selector's approval, then would it not be better if the domestic first class cricket matches are scrapped off? Are these matches meaningless? But then, where else should these talented cricketers show their performances to win the nod of the national selection committee?

Mohinder Amarnath and Maninder Singh are simply two examples of those who have had



Mohinder Amarnath

a proven track record and an international standing yet they have been axed. There are many other players also who deserved to get a chance but have been given step-motherly treatment because they belong to Delhi and North Zone. Is it a crime to be a player of this region?

Mohinder's Cricketing Capability Is Beyond Doubt

By Madan Lal

Former Indian pace bowler who visited West Indies in 75-76 and then in 1983.

I have no two opinions about Mohinder's cricketing capability. He is still one of the fittest cricketers and capable of holding Indian innings together against the Caribbean pace attack. I can't understand how he can be dropped from the Indian team on the flimsy ground that his current form is not known.

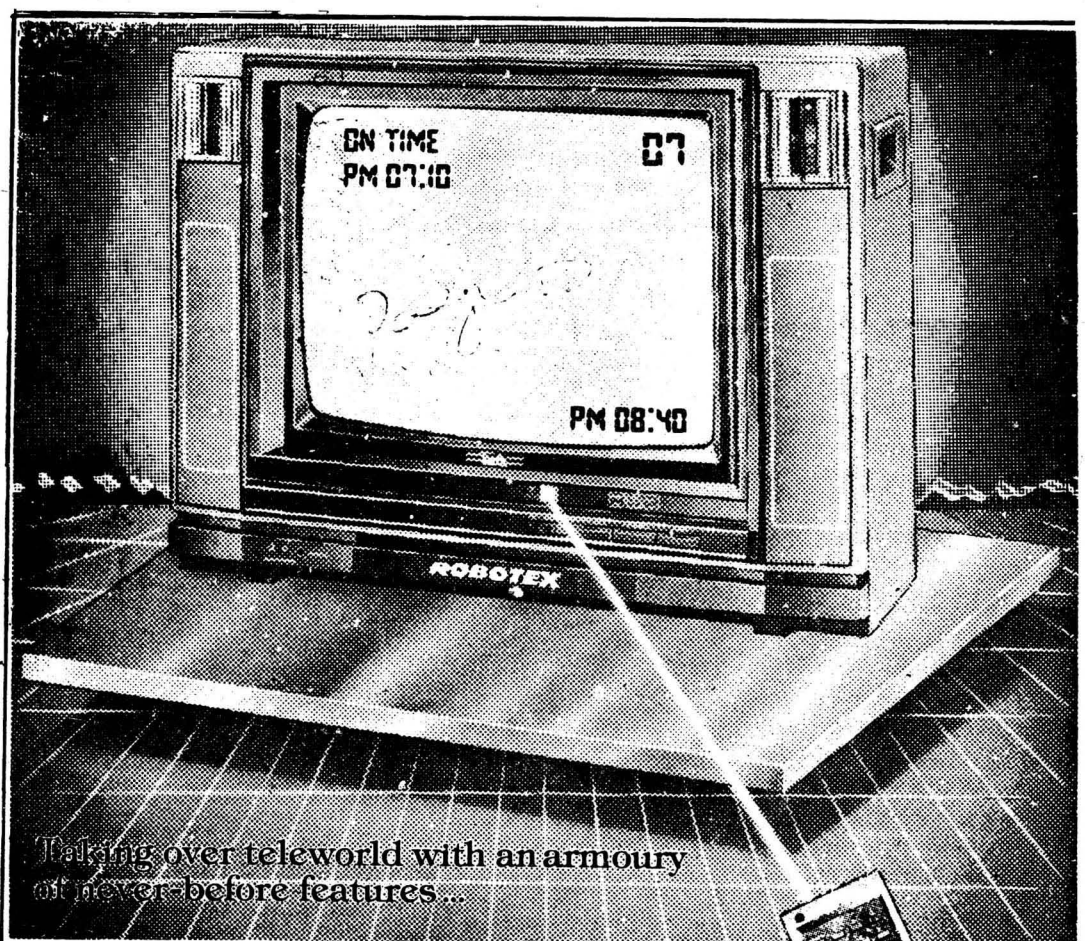
I know Mohinder for the last 24 years. We have been playing together since school days of 1965. (Mohinder is only six months elder to Madan Lal). We have played several times under each other's captaincy. I have always

found him an intelligent cricketer with few words. I don't remember if I have ever heard him speaking against anyone—even against juniors.

I firmly believe that he should not have been dropped from the first Test team against New Zealand. If a seasoned cricketer is performing well, there is no sense in dropping him on the pretext of giving chance to youngsters. I have all along been in favour of encouraging youngsters but there is a way to groom them. Just putting them in the national side put them under tremendous pressure which is generally beyond their capacity. It has an adverse effect on their performance and then when dropped, they are so discouraged that the very interest in the game is lost.

Let us take the example of Rasid Patel. The left-arm pacer was taken to Sharjah, then to Dhaka and then moved with the Indian team from one centre to another. Ultimately he played one Test in Bombay and then sidelined. Now he was not considered good enough even among 23 probables.

Continued on page 15



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